

Israel offered US missile with range of 460 miles

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Secret terms of Sinai pact disclosed

Fred Emery, Sept 16. The United States is offering the Pershing missile, which has a range of 460 miles, to Israel, among other sophisticated armaments, under an addendum to the Sinai agreement, President Ford confirmed tonight. In Europe the missiles are equipped with nuclear warheads, but any supplied to Israel have conventional warheads.

The first time how all-embracing the agreement is to be. Within the limits of the United States resources, and Congressional authorization and appropriation, the United States pledges to be "fully responsive" to Israel's defence, energy and economic requirements, on an annual basis.

It would all be "very substantial", Mr Ford admitted. Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Defence Minister, is due to arrive later today to conduct the study of Israel's 1976 needs which is specified as one within three weeks of the Sinai pact signing.

On oil, the United States undertakes to help Israel in both acquisition and transport only if Israel is unable to obtain it in the market.

In addition, the United States will take into account, in economic aid, the cost to Israel of importing oil to replace what it surrendered in the Sinai. The aid will be an amount stated as 4,500,000 in 1975.

Also new is an undertaking in which both sides agree to "conclude a contingency plan for an emergency military supply operation" to Israel. This is presented to be a new article.

On the diplomatic front, the main memorandum conveys an American agreement that there should be no more step-by-step diplomacy, at least on the Egyptian and Jordanian fronts. It agrees that "the next agreement with Egypt should be a final peace agreement" and with Jordan that "negotiations will be directed toward an overall peace settlement."

So far as Congress is concerned, there is certain to be some questioning of, but little opposition to, the idea of Israel's being given missiles capable of hitting all Arab capitals.

It is accepted here, however, that both the Egyptians and the Syrians have been supplied with some of the Russian Scud-B missiles which have a smaller range but are capable of hitting Arab cities.

Our Foreign Staff writes: The Pershing missile was given to United States troops in Europe in 1964. It is a two-stage weapon which can be carried by its launching equipment on a truck or helicopter and can be brought quickly into action and fired in a few minutes from an unprepared site. Immediately after firing, the crew are supposed to move to a new position for the next shot.

Like the majority of missiles used by Nato forces, the Pershing underwent a number of modifications after its introduction. The Pershing 1A, which was made in Florida, appeared in 1974 with an improved motor-launcher and more of the missiles deployed in Europe are believed to have 400 kiloton warheads.



The end of the long, dry summer in St James's Park, London.

Palestinian terrorists 'ashamed' at end of flight to Algiers

From Victoria Britain, Sept 16. The first Palestinian terrorist escapee, a 30-year-old Arab, ended his flight to Algiers today. The Algerian aircraft sent to Madrid for the hostages and the four Palestinians after a personal plea from President Sadat to President Boumedienne landed at Algiers.

Foreign journalists were turned away from the airport, but Mr Mahmoud Abdel Ghaffar, the Egyptian Ambassador to Madrid, later told The Times that it would be the last and only such Palestinian attempt to influence the Egyptians. The Palestinians had been so ashamed of themselves, he said, that one had asked him to stand on his neck when they arrived in Algiers.

"We Arab brothers have the same goal, to liberate our land, but we must call the Palestine entity. The route is where we differ. Egypt's policy is not changeable," the ambassador said as he sat in a garden of the St George's Hotel.

Mr Ghaffar said that the paper written by the terrorists condemning the Egyptian-Israeli agreement had been signed by him and several other Arab ambassadors to Madrid. "It means nothing," he had just been a way of letting the Palestinians save some face after they had abandoned their original aim of getting the Egyptian delegation to withdraw from Geneva.

The Palestinians were young and not well informed about the details of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. They thought the agreement would let Israel ships through the Suez Canal, and I had to explain to them that it was only Israel cargoes," said the ambassador.

He said that it was Egypt's duty to help the Palestinians in their struggle for life by Israel in south Lebanon that had pushed them to act. "But nothing has changed," he told them, it was the same before the agreement. But Egypt will never betray the Palestinians.

The ambassador said that the message sent by Mr Yasser Arafat through the Madrid Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had contained on page 6, col 7.

Steel peace talks fruitless as strike grip spreads

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor. The blastfurnace men's strike grip was virtually complete in the main steel-making areas last night after a day of fruitless peace talks aimed at saving the state industry from an all-out stoppage.

From talks between the National Union of Blastfurnace-men and the British Steel Corporation will take place today under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, but yesterday's intervention by Mr Lord Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and the conciliation service had little effect.

Furnace workers at Port Talbot, South Wales, voted to strike on Sunday in support of the 600 men out at Llanwern, Newport, Gwent, over manning rates for a new high productivity furnace. Blastfurnace men are also expected to stop work today at Corby, Northamptonshire, and the big Scunthorpe steel complex.

Reviewing action being taken or planned in support of the 11,000 workers, Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Blastfurnace-men, said: "The lads are coming out just as I predicted except in a day and a half of non-stop talking" the union and British Steel were no nearer a solution. At an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon the 15 members of the union executive reaffirmed their opposition to arbitration, and the union will continue to press for a £100 basic rate on the Llanwern furnace, which would mean earnings of £140 a week for some of its present production bonuses are maintained.

British Steel said last night that the men had given written notice of their intention to take industrial action from 6 am on Sunday. The union fully intended to wind down plans dependent on the manufacture of hot iron by furnace union members, and the labour force would be told of those plans through the usual trade union communication machinery at national and local level. The first lay-offs will begin on Friday at Llanwern, involving about 3,500 men.

The union executive stayed in London overnight to review the situation. "We are not in a position to make any concession," said a union spokesman.

None the less some Liberal MPs, perhaps influenced by their ambitions, believe that he may decide to resign before then.

One of them, who wished to remain anonymous, said that Mr Thorpe at his best was the only leader for the party, but when he was not then he, the anonymous MP, was better.

Conference delegates are to debate tomorrow a memorandum on changing the electoral process. Mr Thorpe fully supports the idea; in fact he suggested it was chief whip. Mr Thorpe believes that the election process should be brought up to date.

The 13-month-old haggle over pay rates for the prototype of a new breed of blastfurnaces will be concluded in the few days available.

The men's intransigence was underlined yesterday when the combined efforts of the TUC and the ACAS failed.

Mr Smith spoke to Mr Murray who emphasized the TUC's concern at the possible consequences of a protracted dispute in the steel industry. Mr Smith assured Mr Murray that he was anxious to secure a settlement as quickly as possible, and would keep Congress House informed of developments.

In talks between the union and Mr Gordon Sambrook, the corporation's personnel managing director, there was no serious attempt to negotiate any change in the corporation's offer of September 9 which would give top-paid furnace keepers a maximum of £100.15 a week.

Foreign supplies: Britain's two leading car makers, British Leyland and Ford, have told British Steel that in view of the dispute they are transferring orders for sheet steel to foreign manufacturers. Our Business News Staff writes.

The corporation said yesterday that such moves were usual in the circumstances.

The two car companies largely depend on steel from Llanwern for body pressings. In recent years, because of uncertain supplies from British Steel, they have bought increasing amounts from the Continent and both buy about tenth of their steel abroad.

Even in the present depressed car market the motor companies see that production levels might be seriously affected in a matter of weeks if the dispute is prolonged.

British Steel said last night that in order to maintain supplies to British industry it had made arrangements to bring in a significant volume of hot rolled coil from France and Holland. No figures were immediately available. The imported steel is of the type used in the canning and motor industries.

While the withdrawal of home steel orders was not unexpected, the steel corporation's chief concern will be winning them back. The growing trend in the motor industry has been for companies to spread their purchasing across a number of suppliers in an effort to alleviate shop agas caused by industrial unrest.

Dissident historian moved from Moscow

Moscow, Sept 16. — Mr Andrei Amalrik, the dissident Soviet historian, moved out of Moscow yesterday but secretly today the expiration of a three-day time limit set by the police. He was arrested on Saturday and told he lacked a special visa, on his internal passport, permitting him to live in the capital.

He had complained on July 22 that refusal to grant him a Moscow residence permit violated the agreement on security and cooperation in Europe. Mr Amalrik was freed in May after spending five years in prison camps for writing the book, Will the USSR Survive Until 1984?

He and his wife have chosen to live in a village in the Kaluga district 60 miles to the west. He told a correspondent of Agence France Presse, Kaluga was the closest point to the capital where he was authorized to stay. The writer explained with a smile.

He said that no matter where he lived, "I shall keep on writing because that is my profession. He added: "As soon as I receive a passport, I count on coming to Moscow rather often, and I will apply to go to Utrecht University in the Netherlands for a year." He had been invited to go to Harvard and Washington universities as well as to Utrecht, he said.

He disclosed that during the final phase of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr Amalrik, mentioned the Utrecht invitation to Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko, responded to the Dutch Prime Minister's intervention in a "very friendly" way, Mr Amalrik said. The historian attributed his present "pestering" by the Soviet authorities to a desire on their part "to show they are still masters in their own house", despite their commitments at the security conference.

Their psychology always pushed them to impose tough measures because they are afraid people would mistake lack of action for a sign of weakness. Agents of the KGB are like malicious, disagreeable children," he predicted that the situation would fall to the pressures of the times and a war.

One of the "times" he said, "I would like to see the only would take 1975. The Government has acted more flexibly than I expected."

But the immobility of the system will condemn it to great changes some day or other," Agence France Presse.

Kissing couple were bombers, Crown says

A young couple kissed in a crowded public house in Guildford as they planned a 10lb time-bomb that killed five people, including two young women, "terrorists," Sir Michael Havers, QC, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

He was opening the Crown case at the trial of three Irishmen and an English woman, who, among other charges, are accused of murdering the five people at the Horse and Groom public house, Guildford, on December 5, last year, and of causing an explosion on a night at the Seven Stars public house, also in Guildford.

The trial, which is expected to last at least two months, opened amid strict security measures, including the positioning of police marksmen on rooftops.

The defendants, Caroline Richardson, aged 18, Patrick Armstrong, aged 24, Paul Hill, aged 20, and Gerald Conlon, aged 20, were brought to court in a heavily guarded convoy.

Including two prison vans escorted before and behind by police cars.

Everyone arriving at the court building was searched by police and had their bags checked. Earlier, dogs trained to sniff out explosives were taken over the building. Vehicles arriving at the court park were examined by police using bomb detectors.

Sir Michael told Mr Justice Donaldson, former President of the Industrial Relations Court, that the couple who kissed as they planned the bomb in the Horse and Groom were Mr Armstrong and Miss Richardson. Mr Armstrong and Mr Hill are accused of adding to the Guildford bombings, of murdering two men in an explosion at the King's Arms public house, Woolwich, last November.

The defendants challenged seven jurors, four women and three men.

"Armstrong, Conlon and Hill are all members of the IRA," Sir Michael said.

Trial report and photograph, page 2.

Mr Thorpe determined to remain leader

From Michael Hatfield, Political Staff, Scarborough. Mr Thorpe dispelled any doubts about his political future last night when he said that he intended to continue as leader of the Liberal Party.

Despite recent criticisms of his leadership he has the backing of his parliamentary colleagues and within two hours of arriving at Scarborough last night for the Liberal's annual conference he said: "I shall go voluntarily, but it is not on the cards and not for some time, either."

The impression gained is that he intends at least to lead the party into the next general election. None the less some Liberal MPs, perhaps influenced by their ambitions, believe that he may decide to resign before then.

One of them, who wished to remain anonymous, said that Mr Thorpe at his best was the only leader for the party, but when he was not then he, the anonymous MP, was better.

Conference delegates are to debate tomorrow a memorandum on changing the electoral process. Mr Thorpe fully supports the idea; in fact he suggested it was chief whip. Mr Thorpe believes that the election process should be brought up to date.

Alps grow taller year by year

Geneva, Sept 16.—The Alps are rising at the rate of 1mm a year, according to a study by Swiss experts from the Neuchâtel Institute of Geology and the Swiss Federal Topographical Department.

The upward movement, although very slow, is important in terms of the supervision and construction of dams and tunnels.—Agence France Presse.

lie in quarrel Rhodesian nationalist rivals

an Army lieutenant and 11 nationalists were killed last night when fighting broke out between Rhodesian guerrilla troops in the Tlokweng area. The lieutenant was speared to the heart and killed. The nationalists were killed by Rhodesian troops. The fighting was the result of a quarrel between the two groups. The Rhodesian troops were ordered to fire on the nationalists. The nationalists were killed by the Rhodesian troops. The fighting was the result of a quarrel between the two groups.



Poison darts among CIA armory

The armory of the American Central Intelligence Agency includes a pistol (being examined above by Senator Barry Goldwater) that fires poison darts. Mr William Colby, the agency's director, disclosed this and other refinements to a Senate committee in Washington. Page 6

Crime beating police

The growth in the number of crimes against property, at about 83 per cent a year, has outstripped that in the amount of resources allotted to the police, Professor R. L. Carter, of Nottingham University, said in Edinburgh yesterday when addressing a conference on serious property crime.

More for disabled: The Family Fund for severely disabled children is to receive an extra £2m to enable it to stay in existence.

Computer services: Three-page Special Report looks at the rapid growth of bureaux, and the wide range of new equipment.

P. G. Wodehouse will: Sir Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, of Ramsbury, New York State, the author, left estate in England valued at £31,733. Other will 18.

On other pages

Features, pages 7 and 16
Sue Maitland on the chaos in Holland as immigration rush to beat the entry deadline; Bernard Levin: The dead, dead days when playing records was a way of keeping fit; Peggy Makins (Seyn House) on being an agony aunt; 2. Colours by Katie Stewart. Leader page 17.
Letters: On maritime priorities from Rear Admiral G. P. D. Hall; on an improved force from Professor A. S. Livingston. Leading article: Mrs Thatcher in New York; Dialogue among Arab brothers; Mr Crossland's final planning decision. Arts, page 10.
William Gaur on The World of Franklin and Jefferson (British Museum); John Higgins on Colin Davis; Stanley Reynolds on Newday (BBC); concert notices by Paul Griffiths, Alan Slyn and Robert Shelton. Sport, pages 8 and 9.
Crisis: Leicestershire, the new champions; Geoffrey Green previews the chances of Derby County in the European Cup; Racing: Prospects for the Ayr Western meeting. Diary, page 16.
Interview with American woman campaigning for families to have no children. Obituary, page 18.
Sir Alan Hudson-Taylor; Josef Rothenstein. Business News, pages 19-24.
Stock markets: Equities moved forward, but closed off the top after disappointing news from the steel strike talks. The FT index added 4.2 to 326.0.
Financial Editor: Grindlays after the refinancing; looking beyond the trough at RICC; good first half at Bank of Scotland. The issues behind the conflict at the Rank Organisation are explained by Margaret Walters.

Doctors to test Rembrandt man

Amsterdam, Sept 16.—Wilhelmus de Kijf, the Dutchman detained after the knife attack on Rembrandt's "Nightwatch", was today ordered by a court to be sent to a psychiatric institute for examination.

The Amsterdam district attorney said the case against him would probably not be pursued in view of his apparently unbalanced mental condition. He is charged only with theft of the knife. AP.

Teachers settle New York strike

New York, Sept 16.—Delegates from New York's 55,000 teachers voted today to end their week-long strike which has closed the city's 950 schools.

Delegates voted 662-359 to approve a new contract, which will cut school hours, and full union approval was expected to come later.

Mr Albert Shanker, the teachers' president, said his members would be back in their classrooms tomorrow.—Reuter.

in industrial it continues

duction figures show that the slide in Britain's industrial output. The rate of decline seems unbroken that in most other industrial nations. Page 19

ewives in need

bands keep their pay rises to and others pass on less than their wives for housekeeping, to two separate surveys to be to the National Consumer. More than a fifth of households barely managing, if at all. Page 4

ing plan rejected

Lambeth council to redevelop 24 acres of housing in Streatham. The plan has been rejected by Mr Secretary of State for the Environment. Page 4



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HOME NEWS

IRA raiders reconnoitred public houses before they were bombed, court is told

By Clive Borrell

Four members of an IRA raiding party carried out a "military-style" reconnaissance of three public houses known to be frequented by troops before they were bombed, Sir Michael Havers, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Open the case for the Crown against three young Irishmen and an Englishwoman aged 18, Sir Michael, who is Opposition spokesman on legal matters, told the all-male jury: "This is an IRA bombing case. Seven people died in the explosion and 84 were seriously injured. Three public houses, the Horse and Groom and the Seven Stars at Guildford, and the King's Arms at Woolwich were severely damaged."

The defendants are: Carolyn Richardson, aged 18, of Ears Court Square, Kensington, London; Patrick Armstrong, aged 24, of Alston Road, Kilburn, London; Paul Hill, aged 20, of Barnsey Crescent, Belfast; and Gerald Conlon, aged 20, of Cypress Avenue, Belfast.

All are accused of murdering Mr Paul Craig, Guardsman William Forsyth and John Hunter, and Ann Hamilton and Caroline Slater, WRAC recruits, at Guildford on December 5. They are also accused of conspiring with others unknown to cause explosion in the United Kingdom between November, 1973, and December, 1974, and of causing an explosion at the Seven Stars public house.

Mr Armstrong alone is accused of conspiring with Mr Hill and other persons unknown to murder persons at the King's Arms in Woolwich between October 5 and November 8 last year. He is also accused of unlawfully assisting in a reconnaissance of the King's Arms with intent to cause an explosion.

Mr Hill and Mr Armstrong are accused of murdering two men at the King's Arms. All four have pleaded not guilty. The charges were read before the jury were sworn in. Mr Hill was heard to reply to the first two counts: "Your justice sinks". Later his counsel told the court that he had been instructed that Mr Hill intended to plead not guilty to all the charges.

The three men were all members of the IRA and Miss Richardson, English by birth, joined the group, Sir Michael said, in about September last year just a month before the two bombs exploded in Guildford.

"These four were part of a raiding party in which two cars were used. There were seven or eight people involved in the Guildford attack."

Mr Hill and Mr Armstrong were directly concerned with the attack on the King's Arms at Woolwich and they carried out a "military-style" reconnaissance which included taking photographs of the targets.

Guildford, he added, was a centre for several military training establishments. Many recruits, young soldiers and new entrants to the WRAC camp near by went to the town for entertainment after about a month or six weeks or restrictions to camp.

"The Horse and Groom and the Seven Stars were the most popular pubs in town because the Horse and Groom sold the cheapest beer in town and the Seven Stars on a Saturday evening had a discotheque and ballroom."

"Quite often what the young recruits would do would be to drink the beer at the Horse and Groom and then move on to the Seven Stars."

"You may think it significant that the bombs placed in these two public houses were placed in sequence so that the one in the Horse and Groom exploded first around about 8.30 pm and the second about half an hour later when it was suspected that the discotheque would be in full swing. This indicates the degree of planning and reconnaissance that was carried out."

Just before 7 pm on October 5 customers in the Horse and Groom noticed a courting couple sitting on a bench in an alcove. The man was King's Arms and the woman was a waitress. The couple were seen to be kissing and cuddling.

Many of those who were killed or injured in the blast,



Electronic devices being used in car searches at the Central Criminal Court as the Guildford bombing trial opened

which took place 19 minutes after the couple left, were friends and relations of Miss Carol Burns, a WRAC recruit, who was celebrating her nineteenth birthday in the public house.

The two bombings differed in that those at Guildford were caused by high explosives and the bomb at Woolwich was a "throw bomb". It had a slow fuse and was designed to create a fire, but the charge was wrapped in pieces of metal, including nuts and bolts.

Of the incident at Woolwich, Sir Michael said: "They picked

Judge orders inquiry on change in statements

By Christopher Walker

A judge yesterday ordered a police inquiry to decide how far the statements of two witnesses had been altered after they had been signed. "On the evidence, it would seem the original statements of two witnesses had been altered," Judge Patten said at Manchester Crown Court.

He added that the Christian name of a man identified by the witnesses had been changed from Robert to David. "I propose to direct that the master be referred by the court to the Chief Constable of the Greater Manchester Police with a view to him advising me how this came about."

His comments came at the end of a trial involving three men who were charged with conspiring to defraud by sending postal orders as good and valid.

David Parker, aged 20, of Princess Drive, Hayton, Liverpool, and Robert Evans, aged 26, of Lennon Road, Liverpool, were each jailed for three years and David Graham, aged 22, of Lord's Close, Liverpool, was jailed for two years.

Airlines seek fare rises of up to 15 pc

British Island Airways, asking for a rise of 10 to 15 per cent, told a Civil Aviation Authority hearing in London yesterday that it faced a crisis.

British Airways sought increases of between 10 and 15 per cent on four routes in and out of Manchester. British Caledonian asked for 15 per cent increases on routes between Gatwick and Jersey, Gatwick and Manchester and Glasgow and Newcastle upon Tyne.

British Airways European Division asked for an increase of 15 per cent on the London to Manchester route. The decisions will be announced later.

'Loyalist' split widens as Craig vote nears

By Christopher Walker

Belfast.

Splits inside Northern Ireland's formerly unified "loyalist" coalition widened again yesterday as politicians from the three parties prepared for Thursday's crucial vote which will decide the future of the two leading loyalist politicians, Mr William Craig and the Rev Ian Paisley.

Although the Government firmly supports the conciliatory line adopted by Mr Craig and his supporters, it is understood that no attempt will be made to provide him with pledges which could help to persuade intransigent backbenchers.

After a full meeting of the United-Unionist-Unionist Coalition at Belfast yesterday, it became clear that Mr Craig's chances of winning an overall majority are slim. Mr Kenneth Powell, MP for Down, South, who has recently been accused of wounding influence on the side of Mr Paisley and his hard line, was present.

There have been no indications that Mr Craig has succeeded in winning over any large majority from the Official Unionist or the biggest party in the coalition, which so far has declined to declare for either contestant.

Yesterday's meeting was originally called to order the "disclaiming" of Mr Glen Barr, one of Mr Craig's vociferous supporters, over allegedly derogatory remarks about Mr Paisley, but this issue was deferred and discussion centred on the much-anticipated Thursday's crucial decision.

I understand that because of technicalities, Mr Craig will not be permitted to put a new motion to the 44 members of the coalition. Instead, a straight vote will be taken after debate on whether or not to overturn the 37-1 majority achieved last week against power sharing with Roman Catholics.

Before the meeting, Mr Frank Millar, a coalition member representing North Belfast, announced his resignation and accused Mr Craig of weakening the morality of the United Unionist case and damaging Unionist morale.

Added to the defection of Professor Kennedy, this reduced the number who take the UUUC whip to 44.

Government circles now reluctantly accept that Mr Craig will probably lose the vote on Thursday, but Protestant support for his more moderate stance is seen as a good omen. Although Mr Craig's decision has been taken at Cabinet level, it is increasingly clear that the final report of the Convention will be followed by one or more polls in Northern Ireland on the future structure of government.

The largely Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party has publicly demanded firm guarantees from the loyalists before entertaining the possibility of restoring a power-sharing arrangement. Mr Craig's unexpected victory, those will not be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Mr Rees, the Secretary of State, has freed another four suspected Provisional IRA members from the Maze Prison at Long Kesh, reducing their number held without trial to 209.

Two police have been injured in an attempt to seize their patrol car near the border with the Irish Republic.

Accusations against Raymond Thompson, an Official Unionist Convention member, were made yesterday at Belfast City Magistrate's Court. Thompson, accused of illegally possessing a Browning .38in. revolver, was charged with conspiracy to commit a robbery and possession of a dangerous weapon.

Raymond Thompson, 30, of a gunpoint on Monday night while a gang stole seven rifles and two shotguns from their gunsmith's shop in Silgo. It was disclosed yesterday.

The incident involved a woman, Mrs. Thompson, who was charged with conspiracy to commit a robbery and possession of a dangerous weapon. The woman was charged with conspiracy to commit a robbery and possession of a dangerous weapon.

Decision on AUEW election is confirmed

By Our Labour Editor

Leaders of the executive council of the dominant engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers agreed yesterday to stand by their earlier decision to postpone, until next March, a crucial election for the Midlands and Manchester seat on the executive.

They did so despite a request by one of the candidates in the election, Mr Terence Duffy, that the ballot should be held, as originally scheduled, next month. Mr Duffy, a divisional organiser of the union based in Birmingham, is seeking to unseat Mr Robert Wright, a left-winger.

Mr Leonard Edmondson, a senior executive council member, took the chair yesterday in the absence of union business of Mr Hugh Cannon, president of the union. He said that neither the election nor legal action being threatened by Mr Duffy over the postponement had been discussed. A decision to postpone was made by the executive council, and that decision will be implemented.

Last Tuesday the engineering section executive tied three-three over the postponement issue, which was resolved in favour of postponement. Mr Duffy was the only member of the executive to vote for Mr Cannon. The vote was 10-10 in favour of postponement when the vote was taken again, the vote went 10-10 in favour of postponement when the vote was taken again.

Mr Wright yesterday issued a long statement explaining the background of the executive's decision, which affects his chances of re-election. The statement was issued in the form of a letter to the members of the executive, who are now allegedly defending democracy. He appealed to Mr Duffy to support his reference to the court so that judgment could be given on the circumstances.

Mr Wright said he was reporting all the circumstances of the disputed election to the union's final appeal court, "having previously requested the executive council to do so, a proposal which was defeated by the very people who are now allegedly defending democracy." He appealed to Mr Duffy to support his reference to the court so that judgment could be given on the circumstances.

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Eight men on insurance plot charge

By Our Education Correspondent

Ten men appeared at Great Yarmouth Magistrates' Court yesterday after arrests in a weekend by Scotland Yard and serious crimes squad. Nine of the men held, one charged with possession of a gun and the other of conspiracy to defraud.

The Royal Insurance Company of 153,365 between January and September 12 this year in respect of a fire insurance claim for Brigsteed Mill, North Walsham, Norfolk.

Five of them were ordered to be detained in police cells at Great Yarmouth and Halesworth, Suffolk, for three days. Percy George Clyde Ambrose, aged 51, a company director, of Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, was remanded on the grounds of Frederick Howard, aged 56, a garage proprietor, of Windrush Road, Kesgrave, Ipswich; Terence Roy Robinson, aged 27, a company director, of Frampton Road, Ipswich; Alistair McGregor Strachan, aged 27, solicitor, of Walbourne Chase, Colchester; and Geoffrey Leonard Allen, aged 56, property dealer, of Whitefoots, Fulham Market, Diss, were remanded.

Four were remanded in custody in Norwich prison for eight days. They are:

Herbert Alfred Jarvis, aged 36, riding school proprietor, of Stock, Essex; Paul Christopher Ross, aged 24, a director, of Westfield Road, Ipswich; John Elmer, aged 53, a surveyor, of Claybridge Avenue, Hockley, Essex; and Terence Albert Stone, aged 35, a builder, of Orchard View, Sudbury, Suffolk. The four men were charged with offences involving the sale of three firearms, was granted bail on sureties of £1,000, and in his own recognizance of £1,000.

Unions firm against rail cuts

By Tim Jones

Railway union leaders were warning last night against any plans to reduce the British Railways Board's costs to save up to £150m a year by reducing services. The unions hoped to reduce the deficit by overall service cuts of about 5 per cent, but two fifths on some lines.

Its plans would reduce commuter and inter-city services, shorten main line trains and increase journey times. The three unions involved, the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, held exploratory talks with the board last night. They have called for nationalization of all forms of transport.

The NUR has told the board that it will not accept any cuts in railway services or any compulsory redundancies. It said it will use its "full political and industrial strength to maintain the position".

George III secretaire chest fetches £1,800

A George III mahogany secretaire chest was sold for £1,800 (estimate £1,500 to £1,600) to Renley in a sale of furniture at Phillips yesterday, which realised £26,770. Robin paid £1,800 for the chest, which was a mahogany secretaire chest (estimate £1,500 to £1,600).

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'Colour TV on welfare cash' denied

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Allegations of widespread misuse of social security payments for such luxuries as colour television and cars, made by Mr Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch and Lymington, have been denied by the Department of Health and Social Security.

In a letter released by Mr Adley yesterday replying to his letters of August 12 and 19, Mr T. F. Crawley, a private secretary, replied for Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Security.

"The particular story about television sets appears, with variations, to have acquired nationwide currency," he wrote. But the department must have some means of identifying the person.

"However, in no instance so far has the complainant been able to help us in this respect, because the story has invariably been received at second-hand."

But some of the information in two letters sent on Mr Adley's request to the department asked his consent to following those up through "a tactful visit by an experienced officer."

Mr Adley said that a High Wycombe correspondent had declared categorically that her brother was selling his van and a buyer came along with a £600 cheque drawn on the department's local office.

He had written again to that correspondent, but she had not replied. He would tell the department that its investigators could go ahead.

He was convinced that abuse was widespread and it seemed to him that the department had no means of checking the items purchased with its cheques.

Mrs Castle's private secretary explained that there might be misunderstanding about cheques. The department's payments included disallowment gratuity, which a person could use as he wished, and it was always possible that such a payment, representing a lump sum payment of arrears) had been used on some luxury article.

"Local authorities, too, are now making substantial payments under the Land Compensation Act, 1973, where tenants have to move as a result of compulsory land acquisition." A reference in recent correspondence to "disturbance cheques" suggested that that was the likely source of the allegations, Mrs Castle was drawing that the attention of Mr Croxall at the Department of the Environment.

For people on supplementary benefit, moving into unfurnished accommodation, help was needed to buy essential furniture. That was a matter for the Supplementary Benefits Commission.

On Monday Mr Adley sent on 35 more letters. He told Mrs Castle: "One simply cannot ignore the strength of feeling on this issue."

Police study allegations on MP's election expenses

By Stewart Tandler

Northumbria

Detectives from Northumbria are expected to complete within a week a report on allegations concerning expenses incurred during the election of Mr John Rymann, Labour MP for Blyth.

Yesterday, Mr B. P. Price, Assistant Chief Constable of Northumbria, said allegations had been made yesterday, when the Representation of the People Act, 1949. When he received the detectives' report he would decide whether to send it to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The investigation began when solicitors representing Mrs Radio, the commercial station

covering Newcastle, approached the police after Mr Michael Chrisman, a reporter, had begun work on a programme about the election in Blyth last October. Documents were produced and Mr Chrisman made an 18-page statement.

Mr Rymann was elected last October with a majority of 78. He defeated Mr Edward Milne, who won the seat in the general election in February, 1974, standing as an Independent Labour candidate after he had been rejected by the local Labour party.

Mr Milne said yesterday that he would consider a private prosecution if the police took no action.

Madagascar expulsion

Tananarive, Sept. 16.—Madagascar has expelled a Mr Jon Harris, the British manager of the Tananarive Casino-Bilton, it was reported today. The National Security Department gave no reasons for the decision.

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Grant-aided school law outlined

By Our Education Correspondent

Thousands of pupils who have won local education authority places at independent and direct grant schools are likely to be affected by legislation to force all local authorities to select and go comprehensive.

The form the legislation, which is expected at the end of this year, might take was published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science. Comments are invited by October 10.

There would be general provision for every local authority to develop and maintain a fully comprehensive system. That would relate to the exercise by authorities of their functions in relation to children attending non-maintained schools.

The department says in an appendix to a press notice: "Local education authorities would be required to review the arrangements under which they place in, and pay the whole or part of fees of children attending non-maintained schools and to submit them for approval to the Secretary of State." It adds:

"The government's intention is to ensure that the arrangements for the education of children attending non-maintained schools are reviewed and approved by the Secretary of State."

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Birmingham schools go independent

By Our Education Correspondent

The governors of the two King Edward direct grant grammar schools in Birmingham said yesterday that they would be going independent when the direct grant is withdrawn but that there would be a fee remission scheme for poorer parents.

Tuition fees for children who enter King Edward's School for boys will be £646 a year, and £546 at King Edward's High School for girls. Parents with two dependent children earning £5,500 a year will have to pay the full fee at the boys' school, and those earning £5,000 a year will have to pay the full fee at the girls' school.

But those earning between £1,800 and £2,000 a year will have to pay only £48 towards the fees. The remission scheme ranges from £1,000 a year for families with five children to £7,000 in the case of families with five children.

The governors say they hope that the Government's "intention" of forcing direct grant schools to become the exclusive preserve of the rich will be frustrated.

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WE'D LIKE TO THINK WE ARE THE FIRST BANK TO STOP TREATING STUDENTS LIKE CHILDREN.

If you're a student and about to open a bank account, shop around.

Most banks want your business so much that they've been offering free goodies.

Last year, for example, Lloyds and Williams & Glyn's gave gift vouchers, National Westminster chipped in scenic cheques, while we offered Parker ball-pens.

The problem is what do we offer this year, a bigger gift?

It struck us that it might be more original to offer a better bank.

So from now on, out go the gimmicks. In comes something no other bank has ever trusted students with before: a Cash Card.

It means you can walk into any of our branches and get up to £10 cash a day with no questions asked.

You won't have to show a driver's licence or Union Card to establish your identity. Just sign your cheque and show your Cash Card.

Nor will you have to "wait a minute, please" while someone phones your branch to see if you're in credit.

With Barclays you're in credit, and you stay that way until you prove otherwise.

What else can we tell you about our new, improved bank?

You won't have to pay for cheques, standing orders or statements. This holds good so long as you don't slip into the red without first making an arrangement with your branch, and you don't borrow more than £50.

Which in itself raises another point: who do you ask if you need a little something to tide you over?

Who do you ask if you need a reference for a landlady? Who do you ask to chase up your Local Authority if it's late with your grant cheque?

The answer at our branches in towns where there are universities and polytechnics etc, is not three different people you don't know, but one person you do: your Student Business Officer.

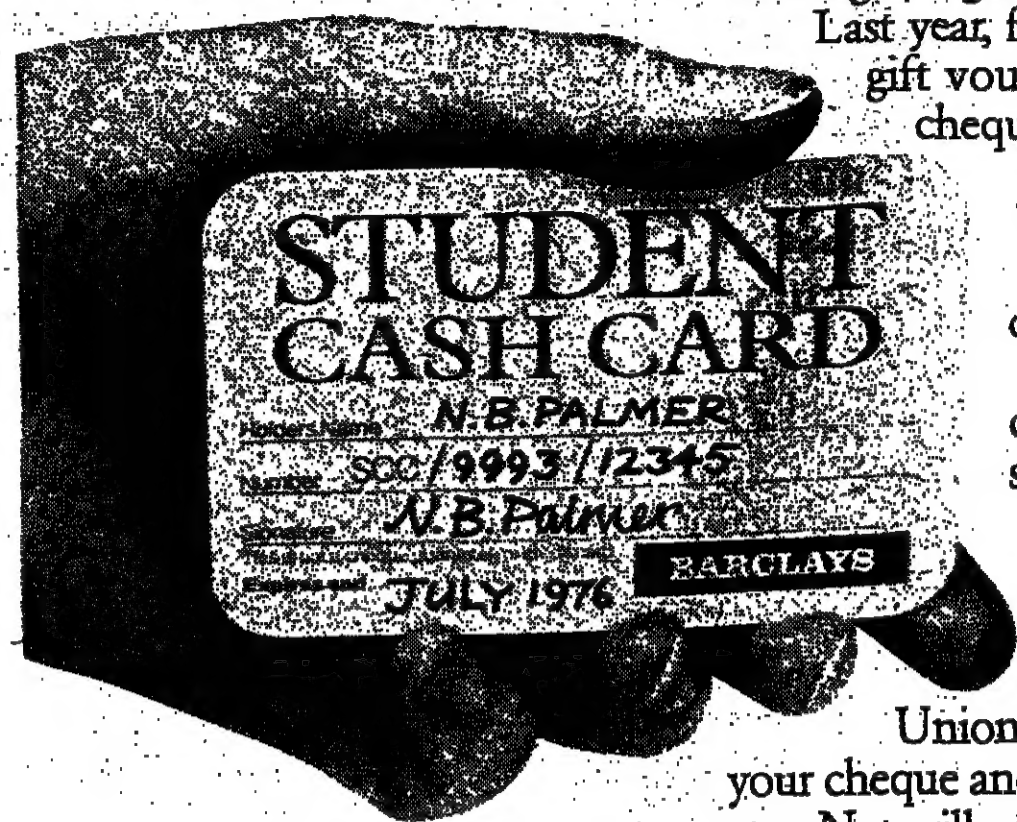
This is a new post we've created, usually a young man or woman whose

job it is to look after students.

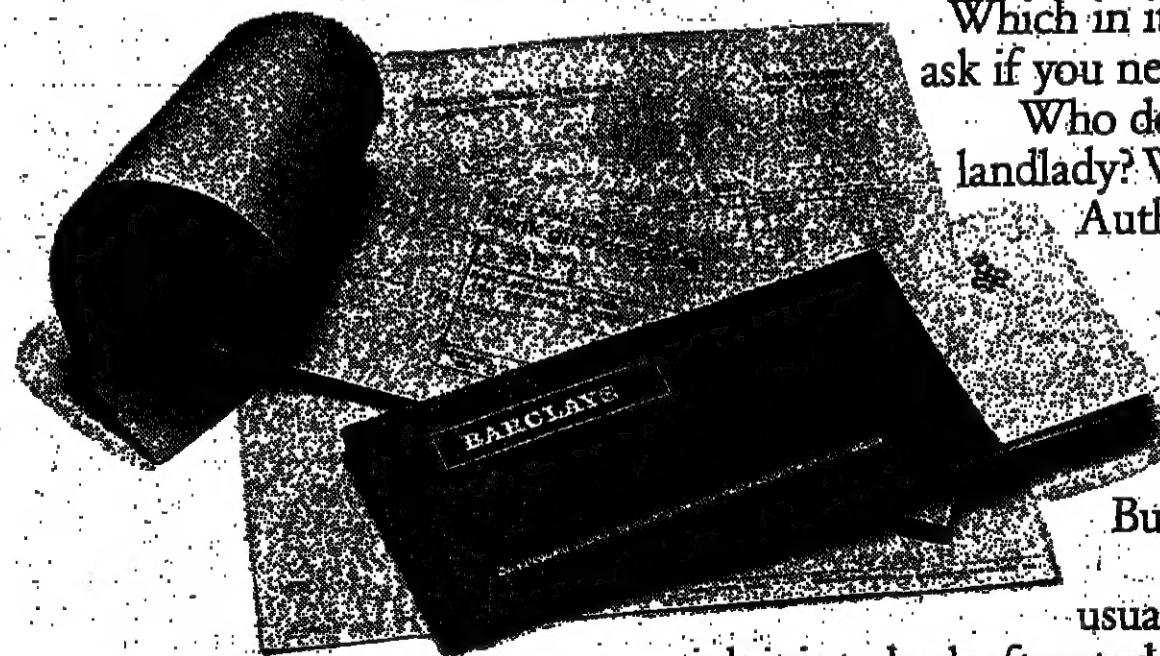
(And we mean look after - not just shake your hand and give you a map of the town.)

We'd like to think that we are the first bank to stop treating students like children.

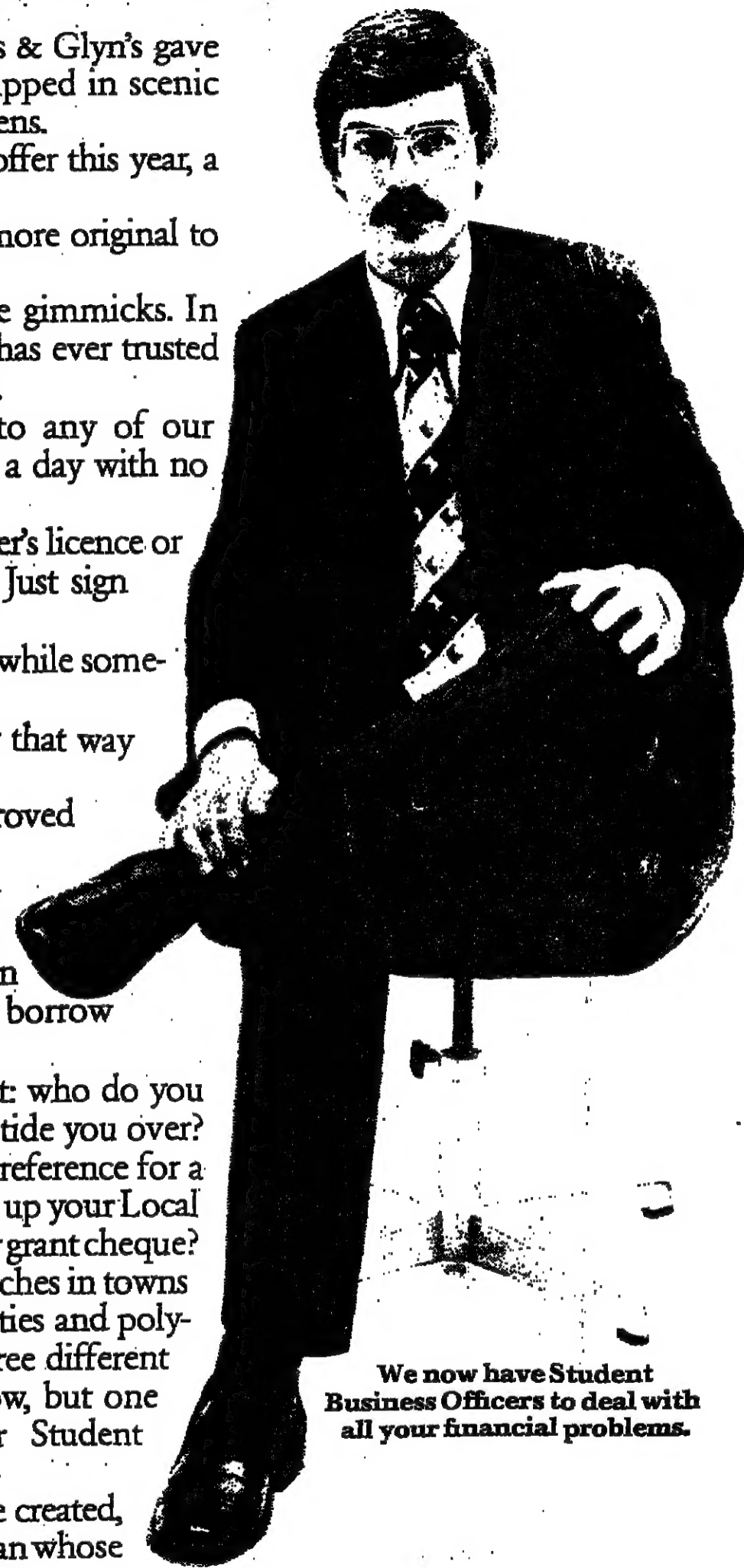
It's up to you to decide whether this is worth more to you than a free hand-out.



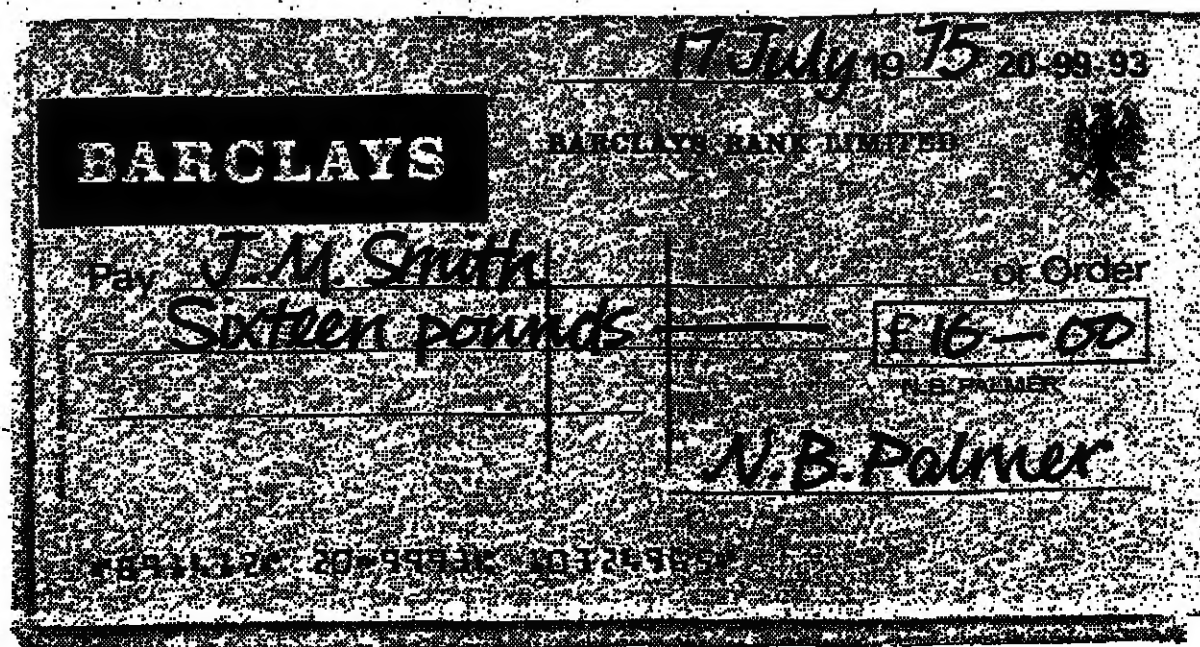
With this card a student can now get £10 cash a day from any of our branches, and no questions asked.



All your cheques, statements and standing orders are free.



We now have Student Business Officers to deal with all your financial problems.



HOME NEWS

Increase in thefts is outstripping police resources, experts told

From Peter Evans
Edinburgh

The cost of crime against property, including spending on prevention and control, has reached 2 per cent of the gross national income a year, Professor R. L. Carter, of the Department of Industrial Economics at Nottingham University, said in Edinburgh yesterday. He was addressing a conference on major property crimes in the United Kingdom. Describing property crime as a growth industry, he said that if the rest of British industry was performing as well as the criminals were the economy would be in a far healthier state.

The growth in crime had outstripped resources devoted to the police. After allowing for the effect of inflation, Professor Carter estimated that the annual rate of growth in the value of all recorded losses due to theft in England and Wales over the past 20 years had been about 8 per cent, compared with an increase in the real gross national product of under 3 per cent a year.

Referring to central and local government spending on the police service in England and Wales over the 12 years from 1960 to 1972, he estimated that the resources employed had increased at an annual rate of about 5 to 6 per cent.

Although no official figures were available, a reasonable allocation to the control of theft would be about a quarter.

The conference is organized by the School of Criminology and Forensic Studies of Edinburgh University in association with the law faculty. Scottish and English lawyers and repre-

sentatives of the Civil Service, the police security companies, banks, oil companies and insurance organizations are taking part.

Professor F. H. McClintock, director of the School of Criminology at Edinburgh University, said there was a disproportionate growth in the number of carefully planned and accurately executed crimes. The network through which information was passed, through which the gangs moved, and through which the total value of unrecovered losses has trebled.

"In London alone," he said, "the number of planned robberies involving losses of more than £800 handled by the police each year exceeds the total volume of all robberies committed annually in the 1950s, and the total value of unrecovered losses has trebled."

Detection rates were relatively low for the better planned property crimes. Where money or goods to the value of £500 or more was stolen no more than a fifth of the cases were cleared up by the police. Rates of acquittal were quite high.

Turning to terrorism, Professor McClintock said: "The movement of vulnerable persons in the community, such as an ambassador's children going to and from school, has often now to be treated as a similar kind of security problem to that of valuable goods in transit and accordingly in like manner exercises the initiative of the police and private security organizations."

Five-year programmes to develop landscape trees

By Our Planning Reporter

Two five-year research programmes on the cultivation and management of trees for urban and rural landscaping have been commissioned by the Department of the Environment. The work is to be done by the Forestry Commission and the Natural Environment Research Council.

The Forestry Commission's programme will include improving methods of producing trees, preparing sites, developing better methods of planting and

after-care and methods of protecting against and controlling diseases. It will also provide information and advisory service, mainly for local authorities.

The research council's task will be to select and make available varieties of birch and alder to grow in exposed conditions and on unfavourable soils, particularly industrial waste heaps. Both programmes are the result of a report last year by a working party from the Association of British Tree Surgeons and Arborists.

Family Fund to get new grant of £2m

By Diana Geddes

The Government has decided to give £2m more to the Family Fund for severely disabled children. Mr. Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, announced yesterday. That brings the total government grant to the fund in the two and a half years of its existence to £8m.

Mr. Morris, who was visiting the Chatter House Hospital School for severely handicapped children, in Sussex, said the decision to make a further grant to the fund had not been easy in the difficult economic circumstances. The question was whether the fund should stay in existence.

The fund was set up at the end of 1972, at the height of the thalidomide controversy, with an original grant of £3m to provide additional financial help for families with congenitally handicapped children. To that the Government added a further £3m in October last year and at the same time extended the provisions of the fund to cover all severely disabled children.

The second allocation would be spent by November, Mr. Morris said. "I was determined to see that the fund did survive, and it is a matter of great personal pleasure to me that it will be continuing its important role in helping families of severely disabled children," he added.

It has been estimated that 80,000 congenitally handicapped children and a further 10,000 children who have developed handicaps since birth are eligible under the rules of the fund, which is administered by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust. Figures from the Department of Health and Social Security show that a total of £4,827,000 had gone to 17,593 cases up to the end of June this year.

Mr. Dennis Hitch, secretary of the fund, said that about 30,000 families had approached it and that about a thousand applications were coming in each month.

About 15 per cent of those had to be rejected on various grounds. Mr. Hitch said he welcomed the Government's announcement of a further grant. The trust had already agreed to continue to administer the fund beyond the three years to which it had initially agreed, which expired next March.

Many husbands keeping their pay-rises to themselves
Poorest wives are getting poorer

By a Staff Reporter

Husbands pass on less than half their pay rises to their wives, for housekeeping, according to a survey of 4,000 readers of *Woman's Own*. One mother in five had no increase in a year of 25 per cent inflation, the survey shows. One in three of the poorest wives on £10 a week or less had no increase in her housekeeping allowance. Two wives in five find it difficult to keep up with food prices.

A survey of more than 1,800 people carried out for the National Consumer Council by National Opinion Polls has broadly the same findings. More than one husband in four did not increase the housekeeping allowance.

The results of both surveys will be presented later this week to the National Consumer Congress in Manchester, which will be inaugurated on Friday by Mr. Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer. The surveys have important implications for public policy, Mr. Michael Young, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said yesterday. It was the first time that facts had been brought out about what was happening to women and children who were entirely dependent on an allowance.

Two surveys show how housekeeping allowances are falling behind the cost of living.

From the husband and there would be further savings. Although the surveys were broadly consistent and they implied that food subsidies should be extended, the cost of food rises and that family allowances should be linked to increases in the cost of living.

The *Woman's Own* survey shows that 38 per cent of the husbands who have not given their wives any extra money have a pay rise in the past year. On a national scale the findings mean that more than two million wives have 20p in the pound less in real terms which to buy the family food, and the other needs to be met out of the housekeeping budget, the magazine says.

The survey found that on average, wives had £16.35 housekeeping money each week, having had an increase of £2.40 during the past year, but to keep pace with inflation they needed a rise of £3.63. Husbands had an average pay

increase of £5.59, after deductions, and took home an average of £43.37.

In the worst-off families it is likely that the wife has been given any more housekeeping money. A quarter of the wives said their husbands had a poor or no increase in housekeeping costs. Most wives are coping, but for those on £10 a week or less, the increase is difficult. More than a fifth are barely managing, if at all, *Woman's Own* says.

Husbands in the National Opinion Poll sample increased their housekeeping allowance by 25 per cent in the past year, but the details are less reassuring. The National Consumer Council says it found that 28 per cent of the husbands did not increase the housekeeping allowance, compared with the 20 per cent figure given by *Woman's Own*.

The most serious finding is that the lower the income of the husband, the more likely the wife is to be short of money. More than half the husbands earning less than £20 a week added nothing to the housekeeping money. Young women who kept the lion's share of their increased earnings, contributing £6.68 to housekeeping money out of average earnings of £27 a week for single people.

Troops can pick purple or turquoise blankets

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

While Nato commanders complain about the variety of allied minisweeps, missiles and ammunition, which tends to confuse their friends rather than the enemies, the three British Services have quietly solved one of the hottest issues in the quartermaster's stores. They have standardized the blankets.

After two years of profound confusion, quartermasters and troops, all Servicemen, married or single, can opt for any one of four colours, officially described as purple, moss, turquoise or sage/olive.

The blankets will be introduced after existing stocks of blankets, which are notoriously hard wearing, have been exhausted. The exception will be in hospitals, where blue, green and pink have been adopted on medical advice for the past 10 years, as a psychological aid to recovery.

Standardization has been achieved in other directions, too. Servicemen will now use the same name and number according to a common Nato code. The Ministry of Defence has managed to remove 150,000 duplicates from the stores, at a cost of £250,000.

A House of Commons Education Committee report, published yesterday, expressed disappointment that more had not been done to standardize the more procedures. Work began 11 years ago, but even computer operations will not be complete until 1980. The committee recommends the appointment of a special official to take charge of coordination.

The defence and external affairs subcommittee is also strongly critical of the Ministry of Defence over provision of services' accommodation on Gibraltar.

Although it was told in 1972-73 that there was no alternative to building new accommodation on the Rock, the ministry has now found that it would be cheaper to convert existing buildings. The committee finds it most unsatisfactory that the possibility was not appreciated much earlier.

Sixth Report from the *Expenditure Committee*, *House of Commons* Paper 471 (Stationery Office, 85p).

In brief

University raid by drug squad

A plant alleged to be manufacturing drugs has been discovered in a police raid on Surrey University, Guildford. Drug squad officers seized chemicals and arrested a man. He has been charged and will appear before Aldershot magistrates today. The raid followed a tip-off from Hampshire into the manufacture of amphetamines, and a number of arrests.

£8,000 bank snatch

Raiders snatched £8,000 from security men transferring the money from the Midland Bank at Palmers Green, London, to their van yesterday. Two men armed with a pistol threatened them and shot the dog.

Egyptian fined £400

An Egyptian businessman, Sami Hassana, aged 40, who sold clothing worth £19.50 from a Oxford Street store while carrying more than £1,000, was fined £400 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

£334,000 bus deficit

Bus fare increases at Hull have driven four million passengers into a deficit of £334,000, a report to the corporation's public transport committee says.

Football rowdies fined

Four football supporters were fined a total of £140 by Reading magistrates yesterday for threatening behaviour during and after the friendly match between Reading and Cardiff City last month.

Cardinal Conway ill

Cardinal Conway, Archbishop of Armagh, is suffering from cardiac trouble and has been advised to cancel all engagements for six weeks.

Spire dangerous

The spire of the nineteenth-century church of St. John the Baptist, which is to be dismantled because it is dangerous, cracks appeared earlier this year, and an architect's report stated that the spire was disintegrating.

Minister discusses tricycle allegations with AA

By a Staff Reporter

Representatives of the Automobile Association were called to the Department of Health and Social Security yesterday to discuss allegations about the defective repairing of invalid tricycles made in the association's magazine *Drive*.

According to a survey in the magazine, 18 out of 23 invalid tricycles tested had "serious safety defects". These were allegations that registered repairers had fitted defective parts.

The AA representatives met Mr. Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, at his residence. He asked them for more precise information about the allegations, which were anonymous, so that the department could assess the position.

After the meeting Mr. Morris said: "I am seeking with the cooperation of the AA, to have investigated the allegations made."

Mr. Morris appealed to disabled drivers to come forward with details of any malpractices. On Monday Mr. Morris saw representatives of the invalid vehicle repairers' association, also to discuss the allegations. Mr. Dudley Smythman, secretary of the Association of Approved Repairers, said yesterday that he had asked for a meeting with the AA before the publication of the *Drive* article because he understood that no visit had been made to an approved repairer by the investigators. The AA had not agreed to his request.

Campaigner Sikh jailed for 30 days

Baldev Singh Chahal, a Sikh who led the campaign against the Indian Government's sentence, was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment yesterday after refusing to pay a £50 fine. Mr. Chahal, convenor of the Indian Action Committee, was fined £200 at Balraj London, on two summonses for failing to wear a crash helmet.

He refused on principle to pay the fine and Mrs. Gwen Chahal, his wife, had to stand in his place. The court said the only alternative was 30 days in prison.

Mr. Chahal, of Downley, High Wycombe, contended that the law compelling motor cyclists to wear helmets amounted to persecution of Sikhs, who were required by their religion to wear turbans. He had been convicted of the offence three times, and was due to appear before court for another 20 cases. He had ridden 20 court on his motor cycle without a helmet.

New Derby theatre costs doubled

The cost of the new Derby Playhouse has already been doubled by inflation, before its official opening by the Duke of Devonshire at the gala performance on September 20. It is originally expected to cost £200,000 but now £400,000 by the time the final figure is not yet known.

Mr. John Williams, the planning director, said: "Inflation has made supported capital projects particularly hard, as such grants have no compensating factor built in and an inflationary economy also works against the success of public appeals." In spite of money difficulties it will be one of the most luxurious in the Midlands with special facilities for the disabled and the hard of hearing.

Lorry driver killed

The driver of an articulated lorry died yesterday when it dived off a bridge near Chilton, Northamptonshire.



Betty Mthombeni and her son, Tony, aged four and a half, planting an ear of wheat outside St Martin-in-the-Fields yesterday in the War on Want Harvest Festival Campaign.

Council's redevelopment plans rejected

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Mr. Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday rejected Lambeth council's plans to redevelop more than 24 acres of housing in Streatham and Brixton. His refusal to confirm two compulsory orders made by the council is a clear indication that the Government intends, as it has frequently promised, to change the emphasis from demolition and rebuilding to rehabilitation.

In his letter to the council, Mr. Crosland said that he was very much aware of the heavy social cost of large-scale redevelopment involving the arbitrary disruption and dispersal of established communities. The incident cost, in terms of environmental blight and reduced housing stock during clearance and redevelopment, was also very high.

It is probable, however, that he was influenced just as much by economic factors as by social and environmental ones. Although the Government has stated that housebuilding will be exempted from cuts in public expenditure, ministers are known to be privately appalled at the cost of comprehensive redevelopment and unconvinced by council arguments that rehabilitation is almost as expensive.

The larger of the two areas, both of which were the subject of public inquiries last year, consisted of 18 acres in and around Wellfield Road and Sunninghill Road, Streatham. The council said its plans would increase the number of homes from 215 to 308, but other estimates put the number of habitable rooms would fall from 1,010 to 1,000. So there would be no real housing gain.

Mr. Crosland noted that few of the existing houses had been inspected internally and the council acknowledged that most of them could be brought up to an acceptable standard as they stood.

Accepting the inquiry inspector's recommendation not to confirm the purchase order, he concluded that the housing gain could be won, if at all, only at the cost of immense disturbance and disruption, and that the interest of the community as a whole would be better served by redeveloping the vacant land, improving the houses worth retaining, and gradually replacing the rest.

In the other area, consisting of 8½ acres at Arlington Road and Brimsford Road, Brixton, the council had acknowledged that its scheme would not produce any additional housing, and that the district was already fairly densely developed and the occupation rate high. Objectors at the inquiry said the

houses could be converted to self-contained flats.

The inspector accepted the council's argument that there would be a considerable qualitative and environmental gain. But Mr. Crosland said that the council had not shown any compelling need for the proposed programme.

Mr. Crosland said that the council's scheme would reduce by some 650 the number of houses completed by the council in the latter half of the decade.

Mr. Crosland said that the compulsory orders in question were made in 1972 and that there has since been a change in government policy.

But any decision should take into account local circumstances, and Mr. Crosland said he would in the case of these compulsory purchase orders.

Leading article, page 17

Outpatient abortion clinics urged

By a Staff Reporter

The only way to end dangerous illegal abortions is to give women easy access to abortion as early as possible, the Abortion Law Reform Association says. It suggests that a network of outpatient abortion clinics, with full counselling services, should be set up throughout Britain.

In a pamphlet published yesterday the association refers to the Lane Committee's findings that 30 per cent of women applying to the National Health Service for an abortion had to wait up to one month to be seen at a hospital. The association says that it was three times more likely to be able to have an NHS abortion than a woman in Birmingham, according to the committee. It also said that the committee found the unequal provision of abortion facilities which, in law, were supposed to be available according to need.

Indeed, the Conservative leader has sent a message welcoming the formation of the organization, which has gathered under one wing the former organization Post, the Progressive Tory Pressure Group, the Social Tory Action Group (Stag) and the Macleod Group, founded as a memorial to Lord Macleod.

Although Mr. Peter Walker and Mr. Robert Carr, who were dropped from the Shadow cabinet when Mrs. Thatcher won the leadership battle, are expected to play an important role in the group, other Tory leaders more in favour with the new regime will also take part in its activities.

Leading Tories in drive to strengthen reform group

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Tory Reform Group, recently formed by combining the Tory Reform Club and the Tory Reform Society, is planning a programme of activities for the annual conference next month that will establish the new organization as a force to be reckoned with by the party leadership.

The group, to be launched officially at a seminar on Saturday, denies that its purpose is to wage continual battle against Mrs. Thatcher and her policies. Indeed, the Conservative leader has sent a message welcoming the formation of the organization, which has gathered under one wing the former organization Post, the Progressive Tory Pressure Group, the Social Tory Action Group (Stag) and the Macleod Group, founded as a memorial to Lord Macleod.

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Farmworkers claim rise of £9.50 a week

By a Staff Reporter

The Agricultural Wages Board will make a decision on 17th on the £9.50 a week increase claimed yesterday by the unions in the agricultural industry.

The claim, made by the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union, is more than half above the Government's 26 per cent limit. In the eyes of the Government, the claim is the highest of the campaign against the annual conference last year. Then the union decided to aim for a £40 a week maximum wage by January, 1976.

The size of the claim and the growing disparity between farmworkers' wages and those in other industries, have been well known for some time, but it took the union representatives two and a half hours to set out their detailed case to the wages board when they met at the Ministry of Agriculture in London yesterday.

The union's case was supported by eight members of the NAAW and the TGWU, eight from the National Farmers' Union and five independent members. Its decision will be legally binding.

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Police discuss 'Tartan Army' counter-plan

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Senior detectives and special branch officers in Scotland met in Glasgow yesterday to discuss strategy on dealing with the so-called Tartan Army, which has claimed responsibility for two explosions in Scotland in the past four days.

Last Friday a monitoring station on the BP Forties oilfield pipeline was wrecked and yesterday Strathclyde police were investigating a small explosion in the early hours beside the Glasgow to Helensburgh railway line.

No one was injured in either explosion but a caller who said he represented the Tartan Army telephoned to two newspapers afterwards and claimed responsibility. The conference in Glasgow yesterday was also understood to have considered security arrangements for the Queen's visit to Scotland on November 3 to inaugurate the BP Forties pipeline.

Before the conference, Det

Chief Supt. Hugh MacKenzie, head of Strathclyde CID, said that police intelligence sources indicated that the Tartan Army had intended the recent action to gain publicity. They appear to be getting this in full measure, he said.

No damage was done in the railway line explosion and parts of the explosive devices used in both incidents had been sent for scientific comparison, he said. Mr. MacKenzie would not describe what the devices were or how powerful they had been, but he appealed to the public to come forward if they had any information.

A warning about the railway explosion was telephoned to British Rail on Monday evening and train services between Clydebank and Helensburgh were held up for about 12 hours. Thousands of travellers were delayed. The explosion was placed about 2 m yesterday but the line was not declared clear until six hours later. A second call was made

to the Daily Record office in Glasgow, saying the Tartan Army was responsible.

The motive behind the latest action by extremist organizations in Scotland is puzzling the police who generally treat such activities as crime committed under a thin veneer of extreme political or nationalist feeling.

The Tartan Army is presumed to be an intensely committed organization aiming at Scottish independence, but according to police records no one charged with any crime has yet claimed to have been acting on its behalf. The number of active supporters the movement has is not known, but detectives who successfully infiltrated such extreme organizations as the Army of the Covenant Government in Scotland believe the threat is serious, although for the time being aimed at capturing publicity.

Frequent change foreseen in library charges

A warning that the cost of library services would have to be reviewed more frequently was given at the Public Libraries conference at Eastbourne yesterday. Mr. R. E. Grimshaw, director of libraries for Arvon, said some libraries still used pre-war charges.

Speaking on the way library services would be shaped towards the year 2000, Mr. Grimshaw said they must be run in partnership with other local government services. Closer cooperation with schools was needed and libraries needed to work with social service departments to help deprived people.

The disabled, the housebound, the imprisoned and those who did not speak English would need help from libraries. The severe cuts in council spending would make those objectives hard to achieve.

In the next four years libraries would have to cut spending either by reducing staff, which accounted for half their spending, or books, which made up a fifth of their outgoings.

Dealers protest again over buying premium

By Our Arts Reporter

Dealers in porcelain walked out of a Sotheby's sale in London yesterday as a further protest against the 10 per cent buying premium. They were led by Mr. Bernard Perrett, senior past president of the British Antique Dealers' Association and a dealer for 35 years.

Mr. Perrett stood up during the sale and said that the buyers, many of them regulars for the past 50 years, were leaving as a protest at "what they consider to be the iniquitous additional commission your firm intends to impose on

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BRITISH MONOMARKS (Est. 1925)

WEST EUROPE

In brief United front French left broken Radicals

Charles Hargrove, Sept 16
The left-wing Radical Party for the past few years successfully struggled to pre-empt the shadow of its two or three associates in the Union of the Left. Now it has decided to take a major blow in its cause.
Robert Fabre, its president, is waiting for an invitation to the Elysée Palace, has been asked to ask for a meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing to discuss the initiative. He is, however, a surprise both to the Left and Communists. It is, in fact, a great feather in the cap of M. Giscard d'Estaing, who has consistently striven for the rapprochement between Government and Opposition, of the normal relations that in other Western democracies.

Difficult search for sixth Lisbon Cabinet

Michael Knipe, Sept 16
The formation of Portugal's government since the revolution has been more difficult than expected today in the assurances by Prime Minister-designate, Américo de Azevedo, that the three main parties agreed upon a programme a weekend.

Helping migrant workers

Our Correspondent, Sept 16
Difficulties facing many of the estimated eight million migrant workers in Western Europe are being examined at a conference of international non-Governmental organizations, which began today at the Palais des Nations.

Italy letting EEC fight wine war with Paris

Rome, Sept 16.—Italy is not planning any immediate retaliation against France in the wine war between the two countries.
Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Deputy Prime Minister, told reporters today that it would not be necessary to hold the special Cabinet session that had been expected to restrict French exports of beef, cereals and dairy products.
He said the Government viewed as positive yesterday's ruling by the European Commission that France's recently imposed 12 per cent tax on Italian wine was illegal. Italian experts, he added, were studying the compensation measures suggested by the Commission, which include export subsidies for Italian wine sales to West Germany and non-EEC countries.
Italy is now expected to adopt a wait-and-see attitude, letting the Commission take over the risk of getting France to abide by Community law. —Reuters

Italy faces week of strikes

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome, Sept 16
More railwaymen in Italy were on strike today in a protest that stopped rail travel from late yesterday evening until tonight.
It marked the beginning of a difficult week in the field of public services. School administrators began a strike today which will complicate preparations for the opening of the new school year.



Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, playing chess with his wife, Hannelore.

Voters move to right in Norway

From Our Correspondent, Oslo, Sept 16
The Conservatives were the main victors of the local elections in Norway with a gain of 3.5 per cent of the votes cast compared with the elections of four years ago.
Arbeiderpartiet (Labour) lost 3.4 per cent compared with the previous local election but retained some of the ground lost in the general election two years ago, a result which the party, despite its setback, regards as satisfactory.

Bonn urges partners to curb budget rises

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Sept 16
West Germany will urge its European partners to practice the "highest degree of economy" in drawing up the Community budget for 1976.
Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Minister of State at the West German Foreign Office, told journalists in Brussels today.

Ministers to discuss sex equality

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent
Minister from 18 European countries meet in Oslo today to discuss the implications for family life of the growing equality of women.
They will have before them a report suggesting that government policies should attempt to reduce the conflicts between family life and equality of the sexes, by such things as maternity as well as maternity leave.

Economy looms large in Finnish election

From Our Correspondent, Helsinki, Sept 16
Finns will go to the polls next weekend after a low key election campaign centring on the country's economic problems and the issue of socialism.
The latest Gallup opinion poll, published by the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat, suggests the left-wing parties will strengthen their position. It predicts that they will win 44.7 per cent of the total vote compared with 43.8 per cent in the previous election, held in January, 1972.

Within the left, the communists show a 1 per cent increase, but the Social Democrats, the country's biggest party, appear to have lost 1 per cent since 1972.
Among the non-socialist parties, the Conservatives command 17.7 per cent and the Centre Party 17.5 per cent of the total votes according to the poll. The rest of the non-socialist votes are divided among seven small parties.

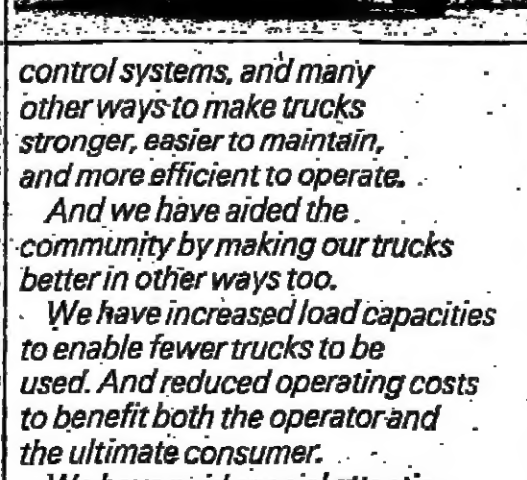
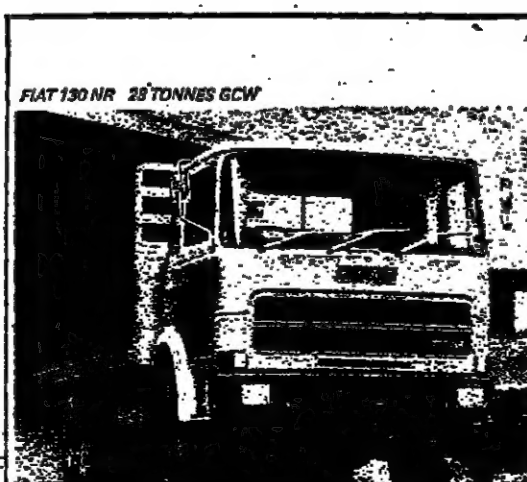
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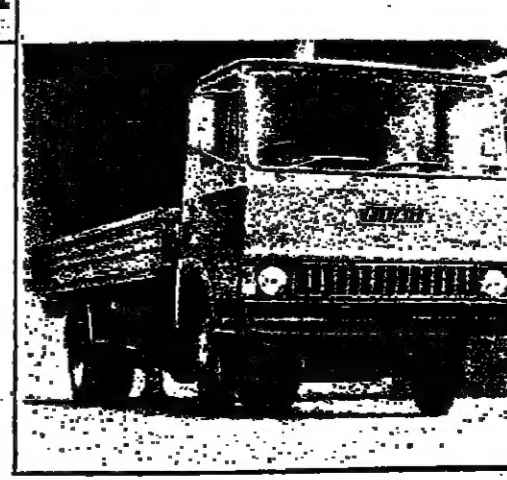
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road users, and for people in general, by getting on with their work quickly, quietly and cleanly. We like to think that if every truck was a Fiat, everyone would be happier.



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William Shakespeare

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a noisy WELT!
With spatter'd boots,
strapp'd waist,
and frozen locks;
News from all nations
jumbling at his back.
William Cowper

All DIE mighty WELT!
Of eye, and ear,
— both what they halt create,
And what perceive.
William Wordsworth

Forward, forward let us range,
Let DIE great WELT!
spin for ever down
the ringing grooves of change.
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

DIE WELT is so full
of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all
be as happy as kings.
Robert Louis Stevenson

If a man be gracious and
courteous to strangers,
It shows he is a citizen of
DIE WELT.
Francis Bacon

This fair volume which we
WELT do name,
William Drummond

God's in his heaven —
All's right with DIE WELT!
Robert Browning

Great men are they who see that
spiritual is stronger than any
material force, that thoughts rule
DIE WELT.
Ralph Emerson

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OVERSEAS

CIA armoury includes drugs, poison darts and cobra venom

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Sept 16

The Central Intelligence Agency produced one of its deadliest weapons before a Senate committee this morning, a pistol which fires poison darts. Mr William Colby, CIA director, who was testifying at the first of a series of open hearings by the committee on intelligence activities, produced the gun with the admission that "it is a very serious weapon."

It resembles a .45 automatic, has a large telescopic sight above the barrel, is powered by electricity and is therefore virtually silent, and has a range of about 100 yards. The darts (unnecessarily called flechettes by the CIA) can carry a poison which is instantly fatal.

The hearings were concerned with the discovery last spring of a store of poison in a CIA vault six years after a presidential order for the destruction of all such substances. Mr Colby explained that the poisons had been produced in a joint project with the Army. When the order to destroy them came, a junior officer decided that they were much too valuable to waste and decided to keep them.

There were many fascinating matters revealed in Mr Colby's testimony, although he did try to suggest to the committee that it had more important matters to consider. He said that the poison was kept in a facility abroad for intelligence collection. However, instead of using the darts, the agents fed the dogs meat which had been treated with incapacitating drugs.

Mr Colby said that beyond this he could find no record that any of the drugs had ever been used on an operation. Research on drugs was still necessary and "We believe that a drug was administered to one of our officers overseas by a foreign intelligence service within the past year." Like his other revelations, this one has not expanded.

In an interview with the Chicago Sun-Times today, President Ford suggested that covert political operations by the CIA abroad might be banned and that its duties might be changed.

developing concealment scheme. The only application of this effort was in the U-2 flight over the Soviet Union in May 1960, during which Gary Powers, the pilot, carried such a device concealed in a silver dollar. The grooves of the drill bit were filled with shellfish toxin. He obviously did not use it and was not instructed to do so.

The search for an incapacitating drug derived from experiences in the Second World War during which, according to Mr Colby, "bacteriological warfare materials were used to incapacitate a Nazi leader temporarily."

It was found, however, that incapacitating drugs could not be used with the dart gun because the quantities of drugs needed were too large. Poisons were more concentrated.

The agency also needed darts to incapacitate guard dogs, and on one occasion, in South-East Asia, darts were supplied for an operation involving the capture of a facility abroad for intelligence collection. However, instead of using the darts, the agents fed the dogs meat which had been treated with incapacitating drugs.

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State aid for New York to end on December 10

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Sept 16

The United States Government will be forced to give financial aid to New York City in December or allow it to go bankrupt. The state of New York, which is supplying sufficient funds to prevent default up to December 10 will not be able to give additional funds.

State leaders said the state's finances would be seriously eroded, if it were to give more than the \$2,300m (£1,090m) already agreed. Mr Hugh Carey, the New York state governor, said additional aid would be financially impossible for the state and a similar comment was made by Mr Warren Anderson, the Republican party leader in the state legislature.

These remarks came as a direct response to a warning by the Standard and Poors credit rating agency that the state would have to pay much more for funds in the market if it gave additional aid to the city as its credit rating would have to be adjusted. The agency noted in a statement that "while the state's manoeuvres up to now appear to be within its

financial capabilities, any additional efforts must certainly strain the state's resources, have a compromising effect on its fiscal integrity and jeopardize its double-A high-grade rating."

The full scale of the city's financial problems has now been made clear by estimates of the monthly cash shortages that the city faces. These have been compiled by the Municipal Assistance Corporation of New York and they show the following estimated shortages of cash for the coming months: September \$90m; October \$71m; November \$97m; December \$79m; January \$136m; February \$368m; March \$863m; April \$207m; May \$112m.

The federal Government remains determined to avoid making payments to the city and continues to demand huge cuts in the city's budget. The Administration's view was clearly reflected today in a speech to manufacturers by Mr Rogers Morton, the Secretary of Commerce, who noted that for a "city to try to do everything for its citizens beyond what it can actually afford, is a very attractive, political temptation. Unfortunately, it is also economically disastrous."

Currency case schoolgirls leave for home

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Sept 16

The two London schoolgirls who were freed by a juvenile court here yesterday after pleading guilty to currency smuggling offences, left today, accompanied by their mothers, to return home.

Teresa Ann Laws, aged 14, and Lynn Francis, aged 16, who both live in Woolwich, were questioned, and had their luggage examined, by the same customs officer who interviewed them at Nairobi airport on June 29, when foreign currency worth more than £120,000 was found hidden in their luggage. This time, although their luggage

Amin demand holds up talks on property compensation

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Sept 16

President Amin of Uganda today said that Whitehall should produce a complete list of assets lost by Britons when their property was taken over in 1972 and 1973 before compensation talks start in Kampala.

He was speaking after meeting a team of five headed by Mr Donald Hawley, an Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which has arrived in Uganda to begin talks on compensation, and to discuss improving relations between Uganda and Britain in general.

A letter from Mr Wilson by Mr Hawley, but did not disclose its contents. He told the team that Uganda wanted good relations with Britain, and was ready to discuss compensation, but Britain should first submit a full list of claims. Mr Hawley said he did not have a detailed list, but would arrange for it to be supplied as soon as possible.

It appears that the British team, whose visit to Uganda follows that of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in July, was not expecting to discuss every detail at this stage.

Turkey asks Nine to get arms ban lifted

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Sept 16

Turkey told the European Economic Community today that there would be little movement towards a solution in Cyprus until the American embargo on supplies of arms to Ankara was lifted. The EEC should use its good offices to help bring this about.

Cyprus was the main subject discussed between Mr Sabri Caglayangil, the Turkish Foreign Minister, and Signor Mariano Rumor, his Italian counterpart, who represented the EEC.

Signor Rumor was understood to have expressed EEC

concern over reports that Ankara might unilaterally declare an independent Turkish Cypriot state, and also dismay at Turkish unwillingness to make territorial concessions to Greek Cypriots. He referred to the recent application by Greece for full membership of the EEC. He said that this could have "economic and political disadvantages" for Turkey. He also complained about Turkey's growing trade deficit with the EEC and asked for improved access for agricultural exports. The two sides agreed to refer the matter to a committee.

Our Athens Correspondent writes: The House of Commons

select committee on Cyprus arrived in Athens today, after being denied entry to Turkey and the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus, on the ground of "pro-Greek bias from its inception."

The committee's arrival coincided with increasing rumours of an impending "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Turkish Cypriots. Mr Arthur Bottomley, the committee chairman, said he did not believe the Turkish Cypriots would proceed to "such an unrealistic action" which few countries would ever recognise. But other committee members did not rule it out.

Fate of Iranian prisoners still a mystery

By a Staff Reporter

A British MP and a solicitor who visited Iran to investigate the fate of nine political prisoners obtained no information.

Mr John Watkinson, Labour MP for West Gloucester, who is a barrister, and Mr William Nash, a solicitor working in the human rights field, returned last week from their mission to Iran under the auspices of the British Parliamentary Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Iran.

Attempts to secure ceasefire in Beirut fail

From Paul Martin
Beirut, Sept 16

Efforts to halt continuing clashes between Christian and Muslim militias across front lines in two areas of Beirut failed today, although calm returned to the north of the country. Throughout the day security forces tried in vain to arrange a ceasefire in the capital, which again endured increased tension.

Although a threat by Mr Camille Chamoun, the Interior Minister, to bring in the Army to restore order in Beirut did not materialize, the possibility still exists, particularly after a warning by Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Phalangist leader, whose

armed irregulars are among the combatants, that unless the shooting stopped, he could not guarantee continued adherence to a ceasefire promise.

As both sides traded mortar, rocket and machine gun fire in the densely populated combat areas, security forces used armoured car cannon in an effort to silence the fire. Cannon also were used to dislodge persistent snipers, firing from the tops of apartment blocks, who have been a main source of disruption in sensitive areas of Beirut.

The two remaining combat zones are on the south-eastern fringes of the city. They are where the Christian village of

Ain Rumanneh faces Muslim Chah, and a few miles away, where the predominantly Christian suburb of St El Fil fronts on the left and Muslim Nabha on the right. Both these areas saw the fiercest fighting in the last general conflict in Beirut during April and June.

Despite attempts by security forces to separate the warring forces and effect a ceasefire, machine gun snipers were set up along the streets separating the two forces and barricades again began to appear. The Government fears that if the fighting goes unchecked, it will spill over into other areas, engulfing the entire capital. In the north, mediation

efforts by the Palestinian militias, who fought on the left and the Muslim militias, who fought on the right, failed to secure the ceasefire. Although the 10 days of fighting between Tripoli and the Lebanese Christians halted at the end of last week, the calm was short-lived.

The new conflict was by the kidnapping of 25 policemen and soldiers in and around Tripoli. However, as a result of action by Mr Ali Hassan, the Palestinian movement's security chief, General Musa Rana, the Chief of Staff, agreement reached late today.

Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition Leader, with Senator Javits, before Monday night speech in New York. Leading article, page 17.

12 killed as Zambian Army stops fight of rival Rhodesian faction

From Nicholas Ashford
Lusaka, Sept 16

A Zambian Army officer and 11 Rhodesian nationalist exiles have been killed and another 13 wounded in a new outbreak of factional fighting in Zambia between rival wings of the Rhodesian African National Council (ANC), it was announced here today.

Members of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) armed with spears, axes, iron bars and bows and arrows, attacked supporters of the rival movement, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) and Front. The incident took place last Thursday in a camp near Kabwe about 70 miles north of the Zambian capital.

Today the Zambian officer, Lieutenant Lidson Libwebe, was buried with full military honours at a funeral attended by President Kaunda and members of his Cabinet. The Zanu dead were buried at a separate ceremony at Kabwe presided over by the Rev Ndabangwe Sithole, leader of the Zanu faction.

According to the official Zambian account, the Zambian Army attempted to stop the fighting when Zanu men and women attacked members of the

other two groups. But a Zanu member appeared at the command of Zambian officers to death while another tried to grab a rifle and a third attacked a soldier with an axe.

The troops then opened fire, first above the heads of the mob and, when this failed, to stop them reaching an unarmed crowd. Ten were killed outright and one other was mortally wounded and died later in hospital.

In an emotional funeral oration President Kaunda blamed the incident on two Rhodesian infiltrators, who, he said, had been found to have been living in the camp posing as Zanu supporters.

But he also condemned the "small number of ex-Zanu people" who had been going around the world trying to destroy the good name of Zambia. "It is among the same people that we find those who want to attack and kill their colleagues," he went on. "We should not allow ourselves to fall into the pit which Smith has dug. Smith is a capitalist, Smith is an imperialist, Smith is a colonialist, Smith is a neo-colonialist, Smith is a fascist, Smith is a racist. Smith is all these things and therefore he is going to fight

to defend those things people who pose asists; yet in their heart they know they are supporters of imperialism."

This latest outbreak of fighting took place in the ANC president, as Joshua Nkomo and supporters from the tions. Bamba has been irritated by the nationalists, as scores of them have been killed in internal since the agree December unity the tions in the ANC.

Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: Mr Joshua told today that if he we leader of the ANC work for universal one man, one vote. R cussing the congress in Salisbury on Sept 28 at which he is elected president of Bishop Muzorewa.

Mr Nkomo flew to from his Bulawayo work on winning at his candidacy. But that it was up to th to decide the leader tion

South-West Africa to end apartheid drinking laws

Windhoek, South-West Africa, Sept 16—Whites-only bars, hotels and restaurants in South-West Africa will soon be allowed to become multi-racial, it was officially announced here.

Mr A. Brinkman, the territory's senior administrator, said a draft ordinance would be introduced in the all-white legislative assembly to allow people of all races into hotels, bars and other establishments licensed to sell liquor.

Proprietors are expected, however, to retain the right to refuse admission to non-whites under the legislation. The move, legalizing social

More students arrested in South Africa

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, Sept 16

At least four white African have been under the Terrorism new wave of arrests African security poli.

The latest arrests needed with the detentions of the weeks ago of Breytenbach, a Cape Town lecturer, and a numd student leaders.

Some of the arrests are known to be connected with the working conditions o

Arab envoys all signed letter for terrorists

Continued from page 1

held the terrorists that the PLO and the Palestinians needed Egypt, badly, and that their desperate act was a complete nonsense which could only endanger that relationship.

That message changed them. Mr Ghaffar is a practising yogi who spends at least an hour a day in meditation and he ascribed his utter calm during the 16 hours spent surrounded by explosives and guns to the 15-minute mental withdrawal to Mecca that he made early in the ordeal. He and the ambassadors of "The Algerians are to leave Algeria together for Spain on the first available commercial flight."

The Palestinians gave an impromptu press conference at dawn at the airport after all foreign journalists had been sent back to Algeria. According to the official Algerian news agency, their heads were covered by nylon stockings as they got out of the aircraft. But they then released and their spokesman, Mr Abou Aissa, told the agency that they were all students and belonged to no Palestinian organisation.

Mr Abou Aissa said that they were extremely satisfied with their operation. Their goal had been only to "create an international public opinion to the dangers of the Egyptian-Israeli accord for the Palestinian and Arab causes."

The permanent PLO

Algeria today made discreet allusion to the fact that the PLO's new Madrid Cor writes: All of the Arab envoys in Madrid are to have signed the letter to the departur

Palestinians with their the text of the "ag read, "We, the accred bers of Arab cou Madrid, meeting today between Egypt and the state of Israel. We con it is against the wil Palestinian people, in o to their objectives a hopes for the future."

In addition to the ambassador, signed were: General Nakhil of Iraq; Mr Ali al-Bilal of Kuwait; Mr Mohamed Jelladi of Ali Mr Taher Masri of Jord Our Geneva writes: Taking no thal Swiss authorities additional precautions today Egyptian-Israeli military group studying impler of the agreement sign beginning of the most

Heavily-armed police including jeeps with guns, escorted the del between their hotels Palas des Nations. Leading article,

SPORT

air Sarita can take advantage of nient handicapping in nursery

Michael Seely, a 71-year-old, Barry Hills has a record of 69 successes last year, seven years after he has retired. Hills has firmly established himself in the front of his profession. His feat of winning the Grand Prix de St Cloud in 1968, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1969 and the Prix de la Forêt de St Germain in 1970, are the most remarkable achievements of his career.

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Chill the Kite in the Rose of York Handicap. Gloss, third that afternoon, reappears on the same track today, and the principal threat may come from Seely's Castle, whose turn of four proved decisive against Legal Eagle in the 1974 Hamlyn Handicap at Sandown Park, and from Dance All Night, not at all disgraced when it took to the track on unfavourable terms in the Strensall Stakes at York.

In the Doncaster Cup, Hide has another mount for Hills on Royal Macale, one of the most consistent horses in training. Although Royal Macale's record is not as good as that of the other horses in the race, it is still a strong contender. Hills' Bomb is one of the outstanding staying fillies in the country last year, when he won the 2,000 Guineas. Hills' Bomb is one of the outstanding staying fillies in the country last year, when he won the 2,000 Guineas.

laid the pair at 12-1 they now go, 8-1 Roman Warrior, 10-1 Blackbird.

Jack Ormonston has decided to give up training at the end of the current flat season after holding a licence since 1946. He gives two main reasons.

Ormonston, 66 next month, said from his stables at Richmond, Yorkshire: "In the current economic situation, my patrons cannot afford to buy new horses. And as well as losing my long-standing stable jockey, Alec Russell, who was forced to stop riding, both my head lad and travelling boy have recently retired after 27 and 31 years with me, respectively. It will be a bit of a wrench but I have reluctantly decided to join the ranks of the retired and to live in Richmond and will keep a few store horses and rear them for jumping."

Ormonston's first link with racing was in 1938 as an owner. He recalled: "I had to wait seven years for my first winner, a horse named Black Domino, who was trained at Beverley by Captain Storey and ridden by Willie Stephenson."

He rode as an amateur over jumps in 1938 and 1937 before turning to training. Although he has kept no records of his training career, he will always be best remembered for his handling of that game little sprinter Le Garçon d'Or, who holds the record for the number of flat race victories this century, 24.



Glorious mud: Graham Thorne wallowing in the taste of success after the Slindon Hurdle at Fontwell Park yesterday.

Fryer hoping for a full licence by Christmas

Charles Fryer, a 23-year-old Sharnbrook permit holder, is a young man who intends to go to the top. After saddling his first Fontwell Park winner, Inycarra, he said: "I am now looking for a full licence by Christmas. I am now looking for a full licence by Christmas."

Fryer has three winning jumpers in full training, Inycarra, Barbel and Advocate, and another three "up his sleeve". If he does become the youngest National Hunt trainer in the new year, it will be a reasonable feat that one day won by one of a half length. National winner for Fryer has gained experience with three trainers renowned for their ability to produce winners. Fryer has three winning jumpers in full training, Inycarra, Barbel and Advocate, and another three "up his sleeve".

owner-trainer's first ever winner on the last day of the 1974/75 season at Market Rasen, and that came when the eight-year-old will race next on Friday week.

Racegoers experienced real National Hunt weather yesterday. It poured with rain and the going was changed from "good" to "good to soft" after the second race. All this did not deter the stewards, who imposed the £25 fixed penalty on Mrs Diane Oughton for not running Guy Manicou (4-30) in the Great Eastern Handicap. The purchaser was changed to five despite her hatred of getting wet.

Habitat filly fetches top price at Goff's

Top price after one hour of brisk business on the second day of Goff's yearling sales in county Kildare yesterday was the 12,500 guineas paid by Stud and Racing Services for a Habitat filly.

The filly, which was sent up from Dolansdowne Stud, is out of the Supreme Court mare Carystyle, dam of a continental winner, Synchroon. The grand dam is Annie Oakley, a winner and dam of five winners including Aiming High and Tender Annie.

The same vendors got 7,400 guineas from Michael Barrow for a King Emperor filly, and 7,000 guineas from The Curragh Bloodstock Agency for a Pagan filly. On Monday only 19 out of the 177 lots on offer failed to find new owners. The 158 lots sold by midnight made a record aggregate of 728,840 guineas at an average of 4,613 guineas.

The average was up by 42 per cent on the same day last year and 5.5 per cent on the figure for 1973.

There were 18 five-figure transactions. Top price was 47,000 guineas paid by local trainer Dermot Weld for a Run The Gamble colt out of Paganview who has already produced two classic winners.

Paganview produced Front Row and Black Slack, both of whom won the Irish 1,000 Guineas and also the Irish Sweepstake. The filly was bought for what was a record Irish price at Goff's Sales.

Piggott fancied on all six Yarmouth rides

By Jim Snow
While Ayr's Western meeting takes the top of the cream for the coming four days, a large contingent of less distinguished members of the thoroughbred world will go this afternoon to Windsor and Great Yarmouth. The lion's share are going to Windsor where there are seven races. It is perhaps surprising that over 300 owners are paying out anything from £20 to £40 a week for the pleasure of seeing their colours carried by one of their horses, and that the total prize money for the 13 races at Windsor and Yarmouth is only £8,400. This is an average of less than £700 a race, but the sum does not include the winning owner, since second and third prize money has to be deducted.

Lester Piggott takes himself the relatively short journey from his home at Newmarket to Yarmouth, and is likely to have more than a few winners. Strabon, in the Hastings Plate, Great Noll in the Newton Selling Handicap, Sailing Ship in the Golden Jubilee Challenge Trophy, and Take Your Place in the Monument Plate, all appeal strongly as probable winners for him. If they are beaten, and they should be, all is not lost for Piggott's faithful followers.

His last two rides for Henry Cecil, which carries the black-and-white colours of his stable, were in the Nelson Handicap and Bontecou in the Beccles Plate, both of which he won. Nothing is more dangerous in racing, however, than to succeed and back the suggestion, that such and such a trainer or jockey looks certain to clean-up with at least three winners.

Perhaps the pick of his rides at Yarmouth are the two-year-olds Take Your Place, a good winner of his last race at Newmarket, and Gavin Hunter's Captain Page, successful in his last two races at Haydock Park. One of Piggott's more interesting rides is Strabon for Dick Hern's stable, who has been the stable jockey. Mr. Mercer goes to Windsor to ride Fiery Ring in the Park Lane Handicap and Wide of the Mark in the Great Street Handicap. It may be supposed that Dick Hern has thought it no had plan to engage Piggott for Strabon, a half-brother to four winners in the high-class mile horse, Sallust.

At Windsor, Joe Mercer should bring off three winners in the Park Lane Handicap, Fiery Ring, on Fiery Ring (Park Lane Handicap), beaten in a photograph at Goodwood by Golden Charles in the Beccles Plate, and on the Broken Date (Twifalgar Square

Place) placed in her last three races and likely to improve on her last running in July when second to Gay Jude. Her third winner might be Wide of the Mark (Hyde Park Stakes), a fairly promising third in her previous outing this season at Wolverhampton in Sea Race.

The name of Joe Gibson has become synonymous with the Bontecou Stakes at Great Yarmouth, for on each of the four occasions this winner's race has been staged 22-year-old Mrs Gibson has ridden the winner. Her victory yesterday on the 811 favourite, Lunatic, followed successes on Campari, a second sum done and the winning owner, since second and third prize money has to be deducted.

Lunatic cruised into the lead two furlongs from home to win by a length and a half from Marchum with Bravely Lad third, another 10 lengths away. Mrs Gibson's above husband, Patrick, is a head lad at Derek Warden's stable, works for Peter Robinson, who trains Lunatic, and is a member of the Yarmouth racing club. He is a member of the Yarmouth racing club. He is a member of the Yarmouth racing club.

Henry Cecil, the leading trainer at Great Yarmouth, had his fifteenth winner on the course this season when Great Idea easily landed the add in the Jack Leader Memorial Challenge Trophy. Bunt, who will be stable jockey to Cecil next season, finished his fourth winner in 1975 and completed a double on Great Idea. He had earlier taken the Add in the Strensall Stakes on the 1 Red Rouge.

Fontwell Park (NH)

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Computer services

a Special Report

Although computer services are already big businesses with an annual growth of about 20 per cent, members of the computer services industry have only scratched the surface of the market. The time will come when almost every business, from two companies to major corporations, will be using some form of computer services. There is a positive need to establish a high standard for the services and products supplied by computer service companies.

This forecast was given by Bryan Mills, first president of the Computing Services Association, on the occasion of the association's annual conference. Earlier this year, the association published a study of the scope of computer services, with significant figures in the balance of jobs handled and the figures employed. The analysis of the industry work in 1974, published by the Department of Industry, showed that the computer services industry had more than £128m for the year, compared with more than £104m in 1973. In 1974, more than £73m or 57 per cent of the computer services industry was spent on computer programming; almost 20 per cent was spent on computer operation, and nearly 8 per cent was for consultancy.

total billings of computer services rose by 85 per cent, compared with a rise of 32 per cent in the non-food element of the retail price index over the same period. All elements of the computer services business except time hire had shown real growth over this period, particularly remote access, which had almost quadrupled. The subdivision of the "processing" total for 1974 shows an interesting pattern. The largest single element was £31.7m for processing using custom-built programmes, followed by £16.8m for the use of package programmes, £16m for remote access and £8.3m for time hire.

19,000 employed full time

Analysed by customer category, the £128m total included £78.6m for United Kingdom clients, £5.5m for foreign clients and £43.9m for parent and associated organisations. About 19,000 people were employed full time in the industry at the end of 1974, according to the department's figures, of whom about 5,400 were in computer programming, 4,400 in data preparation, 2,800 in computer operation, 1,900 in administration, 1,300 in consultancy, 1,000 in data control and 800 in sales.

Behind this bare statistical picture of the industry lies a complex industrial structure and one which is changing continuously to match new markets and techniques. In the beginning, to oversimplify, there were batch processing bureaux, time-sharing bureaux, software houses and consultancies. Now there are many variations on all of these and, in addition, many distinctions have become blurred as a new generation of "systems houses" has emerged to cut across the traditional boundaries.

For several of the software houses, in particular, there has been a move to acquire hardware expertise (and sometimes hardware companies) in order to build up a complete systems skill. This is often being applied in mini-computer-based systems, in applications extending from the control of industrial processes to the automation of office routines for small companies. As part of their services, some software houses are now offering performance measurement, based on the use of ingenious hardware monitors which can look inside computer systems and analyse just how busy the different parts of the system are. Armed with this knowledge, the computer user can tune his system to give it full performance and, on occasion, can cancel the order for the additional pro-

cessor he previously believed to be necessary. "Facilities management"—the provision of an all-in computing service by an outside organisation—has finally taken off. It is no longer an evangelical campaign by a single software house, but has become an accepted fact of computing life.

In a significant move that has become evident over the past 12 months, some of the mainframe computer hardware manufacturers are now deliberately enlisting the support of independent software organisations in a collaborative approach to the introduction of new-model computers, particularly at the small end of the scale.

IBM has done this with its small Model 32, encouraging users to go to the software houses for their special programmes. ICL has grafted some of its small Model 2903 "customer centres" on to existing bureau companies.

And Univac is jointly marketing its not-so-small Series 90 computers with commercial program packages, though tailored to fit, developed and supplied by the John Hoskyns software consultancy.

Further consolidations and acquisitions have continued in the industry, with BOC Computer Centres and Data-solve International coming together to form BOC Data-solve, for example, after a period of successive acquisitions by the BOC company.

BOC Computer Centres' work was for the parent British Oxygen Company, a pattern that is typical of many of the bureaux which began life as in-house computing departments with time to spare.

Power and economy from sharing

"Computer timesharing" is one industry specialist comment, "that part of the computer services business that started as a breakthrough movement from data processing, is now coming full circle to link up with the traditional data processing area." For the user, this means the ease of use of the timesharing terminal coupled with the power and economy of a big batch processing system. Part of the "interactive" process is here to specify the priority for the job—immediate, within a few hours, or overnight. In providing this new flexibility of service, a number of the service companies are now using international networks. The concept of reaching a big computer in any, London, for the cost of

a local telephone call in Scotland, has been extended so that, where appropriate, the local call will now connect you to an even bigger computer in the United States.

In consultancy, the range of available services grows wider, both in ad hoc assignments and in the subscription-based services which provide assessments of technology trends by way of conferences, and reports on a continuing basis. Government departments are increasing their use of the services of outside consultants, bureaux and software houses, under the overall guidance of the Central Computer Agency.

In the broader area of computer-related services, economy for the customer who—despite the attractions of the bureaux—wishes to do it himself can be provided through the services of the computer leasing and brokering companies. There are many examples of big savings having been made, particularly in the use of IBM 360 systems which can be just as effective as the later 370s.

For the potential computer user who needs a helping hand in finding his way through the maze of services available, there are now two national sources of advice. One is the National Computing Centre, Manchester; the other is the Computing Services Association, London.

Kenneth Owen Technology Correspondent



Montage: Trevor Sutton

Forum for diverse interests

by David Firnberg

Interesting partnership of government and industry, the National Computing Centre (NCC) was set up in 1966 as an independent, non-profit-making body "to promote the more widespread effective use of computers." As a membership organisation, its activities are "run" by its members—companies which are connected with computers, or as computer users, or suppliers of equipment, or software. The NCC has regional offices in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow and Belfast, and a staff of almost 200. It is funded by a combination of membership fees, sales of products and services, collaborative industry project funding and government grants.

activities of providing direct help to individual companies. Perhaps one of the most important of the strategic activities is the role of the NCC in acting as an independent objective forum for the discussion of issues between the main interest groups of those working with computers. This may be considered to be the computer users themselves, the computer equipment manufacturers (bureaux, consultancy and software) and the Government (both as legislator and user).

All of the different viewpoints are represented in the NCC's membership and its governing council and that puts the centre in a position to evolve unbiased solutions to the many difficulties which beset the rapidly expanding computing community. The broad areas of work for the centre are chosen with a view to combating lack of knowledge; avoidance of duplication of effort; and better use of scarce national resources, both of

material and personnel. Much of the work is done by a system of collaborative projects and working parties, actively involving NCC member companies to ensure that the results are valid for the end user. The object is not to create a "talking shop" but at the end of the day to come up with positive results.

One example of an activity, with national significance, is the Software Product Scheme. In short, money provided by the Government is used by the NCC, guided by an advisory body, to encourage the development and marketing of new software products by small and medium-sized companies. A number of products have already resulted from the scheme and are being actively marketed by British software companies.

Of more immediate relevance to the individual computer user or, even more important, the prospective user, is the role of the NCC as a source of information and advice. By providing such services, the centre ensures that it maintains active contact with the needs of the user.

Experience has shown that many organisations make their first contact with the NCC as a result of reading some published NCC material. That is likely to be followed by use of the centre's information service, which often leads on to use of the advisory service and finally to centre membership. As a publisher of books on computing topics the centre not only makes available the results of its own projects, but also adds to the results covered by computer literature. The list of titles includes material for all markets, from computer professionals and user management to school children and college and university students.

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The centre has worked hard to develop its comprehensive information service. Now most questions are efficiently answered by reference to a comprehensive data base maintained in the centre's computer. The data base employs effective methods of data base management using a thesaurus of key words to help the search for information. Information dispensed may be broadly classified under the headings of hardware, software, services, literature, educational facilities and computer installations.

Abstracts help to provide answers

Many questions are answered by the provision of abstracts from the data base. And many aspects of a topic can be dealt with easily. For example, an answer might indicate where appropriate training can be obtained, and so on. Giving advice and assistance to the individual company is an essential part of the NCC's role. That is particularly important for managers about to use computers for the first time. The potential benefits are great, but mistakes can be serious. The NCC's advisory service concentrates on short-term assignments aimed at helping the client to help himself.

NCC advisers can lead an invaluable ear to the difficulties and hopes of clients and can help to evolve practical plans of action. Once under way, the adviser remains near at hand in case the client should find. Much of the adviser's work is concerned with making sure that the client is fully aware of all the possible choices open to him and the services available.

Examples of some of the questions dealt with are: does the company really need computing facilities? What for? How can the benefit and costs be evaluated? Should the company employ a consultant? If so, how to choose one and how to brief him? Should the company buy or rent equipment, or use a service bureau? How should the requirements be specified, how should suitable organisations be chosen and how

continued on page 15

Individualists find common cause

by B. J. Gibbens

It is only logical that computer users should be surrounded by a service industry, selling time, helping, advising, installing, preparing data—every possible service designed to make the use of computers simpler and more desirable.

The 116 members of the Computing Services Association represent most of the important companies in this part of the industry. Their combined turnover amounts to £120m—85 per cent of the services turnover recognised by the Department of Industry in the United Kingdom. Their combined staff totals more than 16,000.

One figure which cannot be measured but which must run into hundreds of millions of pounds is the value of computer hardware bought, processes controlled and commercial business done under the guidance of the members of the association. This is perhaps the first point to remember about the work in computer services—it is highly geared with a cost, as reflected in the turnover of its members, much lower in size than its effect on the economy of the country.

This is why the services side of the computer industry makes far more impact than the hardware side. It is the best reason why these companies should operate with one voice through the medium of their trade association.

Influencing the social climate

It is also worth pointing out that although any trade association is motivated primarily by the self-interest of its members, this self-interest cannot afford to be anything but enlightened in recognizing the evolving requirements of the computer user and society. Only by taking these into account can the association hope to influence favourably the business, social and legislative climate in which members operate. Such influence is the raison d'être of the association.

The Computer Services Association (CSA) is a young association—nine months old, to be precise. Why, if the service area is so important, has a trade association not emerged before this time? CSA was formed by the amalgamation of two trade associations, the Computer Services and Bureau Association (Cosba) and the Software Houses Association (SHA). Both these associations had several years of existence behind them before it was realized that they were merely parts of the same industry. A catalyst was also present in the ranks of the management consultants, many of whom had founded flourishing firms of computer consultants.

But there was a deeper reason behind the slow formation of CSA. As an industry the computer services are young. Many of the component parts were built up by men who are still young. In 20 years computers have come from playthings to the linchpins of business. Indeed, it is surprising that the men who surrounded this growth and who built up the service industry should even now

feel any need for a trade association with their own competitors. Most have thrived in an atmosphere which tolerated at least the outspoken entrepreneur. In today's climate, which seems to denigrate profitability and self-employment, it is perhaps not unnatural that there appears to be greater safety in numbers and that a trade association appears to offer some advantages.

It is not, nor will it be, easy to run an association consisting of such successful individualists. But, despite their pressures and tensions, the industry is now so pervading that there are some issues common to all.

No one outside a trade association really cares much about its intricate difficulties and the love-hate relationship so delicately nurtured between the computer service industry and successive governments. For many years the computer industry, according to government, consisted solely of interference and red tape, here and there, some noisy hangers-on. Things have changed, but not nearly enough. One by one, bureaux, software houses and others are taken over by foreign interests; one by one, foreign multinational

prestige contracts are won by foreign interests when the United Kingdom Government has a powerful vote in the choice of contractor; one by one, defence contracts are signed abroad with no thought to the fact that for every Chief of Staff tank sold there is a computer-controlled attack system to go with it.

Things are improving—the creation of the Central Computer Agency brought a ray of light into the gloom and at any time the Department of Industry (our sponsoring department) is due to produce the outlines of a national software policy. Nor should we worry particularly if this policy is late, ill-conceived or misshapen; at least it will prove that sponsorship exists.

It is hoped that it will recognize the importance of the Computing Services Association and its members' role in the marketplace—to paraphrase St. Matthew, it should render unto CSA the things which are CSA's. Given government tolerance and understanding, I have no reason to suppose that the members of the CSA should not continue their exponential rate of growth, and if CSA does its job properly, it too will grow as its weight and impact become evident.

Indeed, this month has seen the appointment of our first senior permanent official, which has lifted us from being an organisation staffed by voluntary labour to one which has announced its intention to remain on the computing scene for many years to come. It is still young and comprises many diverse activities and personalities. Its members and officers will need to be understanding of each other's ambitions and needs and, I would expect, will have fairly frequently to submerge their individual egos for a longer-term good.

That we have been able to form such an association in the first place is a hopeful sign. It will be seen by the member when he first recognizes that his marketing and operations are assisted by the activities of the CSA. It will be recognized as such by the user when he finds his requirements met more fully and efficiently by members of the association, and it will be welcomed when the association first gives public guidance to its members on a question affecting individuals—privacy, for instance.

The author is president, Computing Services Association.

Lowndes-Ajax

bureau chat

Bureau chat 4 August 1975

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It jogs Post Office microfilm memory

by Tom Southerton

Microfilming facilities, payroll production, staff training in computer techniques, systems and programming skills - all are available to any business, large or small, from the Post Office's commercial computer service bureau, the National Data Processing Service (NDPS).

Work for the Post Office naturally accounts for most of the bureau's computing (about 170 projects). But with access to much of the vast computing power of the Post Office - more than 40 machines - and the accumulated experience of about 17 years' in-house computing, the potential benefits of using such assets commercially are obvious.

The bureau also offers data preparation, software packages, the conversion of company files on to computer. Small customers in particular have the advantage of using large, very advanced machines that they could not possibly justify buying or renting themselves.

Forty projects for outside customers are handled by NDPS, ranging from small payroll programs to the London Airport cargo electronic data processing scheme (LACES). That project has cut from four to two days the handling and clearance time for cargo imported into this country, and halved the need for storage space at Heathrow.

Britain was the first country to employ a computer for such a purpose. NDPS has provided consultancy services for a similar system for Orly and Roissy-en-France airports and also used its LACES experience to develop software for a Royal Air Force stock control system.

The Post Office is the nation's biggest employer - 434,000 people - so that standard computer application, payroll calculation, is a natural candidate. In fact 300,000 staff in 300 different grades are paid through the Post Office's payroll system, producing nearly 12 million advice and forms for cash payees, bank credit transfers or Giro cheques every year. But the Post Office will also happily run a payroll package for 50 people at 5,000. Other software packages include sales and purchase ledger, inventory recording and invoicing.

NDPS customers frequently benefit as fast as the Post Office itself from any of its innovations in computing techniques. Microfilm is one example. Customers with problems of storage space have already reaped the benefits of microfilming their records.

Microfilming, however, is only a means to an end for the Post Office. The computer-controlled camera used produces film of telephone directory entries. Instead of the conventional paper printout the film is ready for typesetting and is used to print the familiar directories by a special software package, COMPOSE, which offers a variety of type sizes and faces.

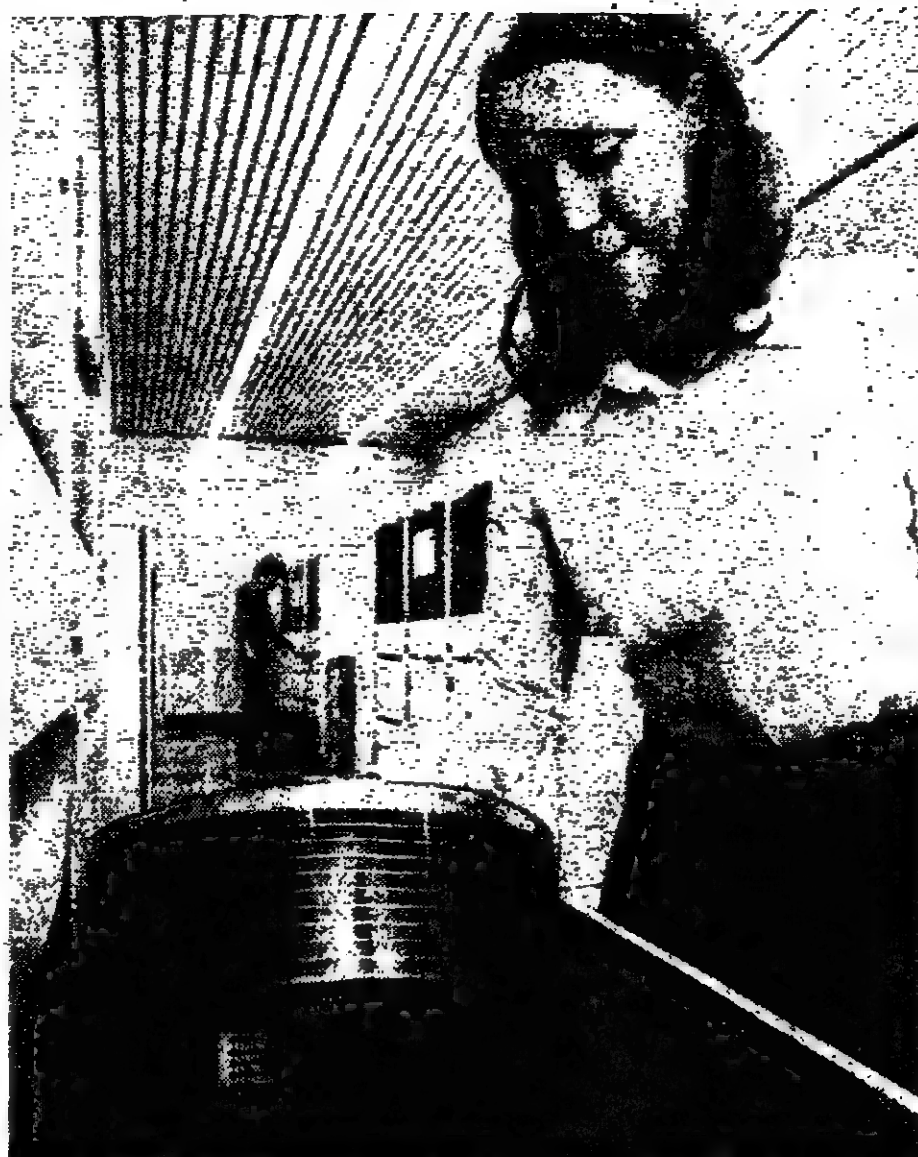
The Post Office is, as yet, the only publisher in Europe of the COMPO 80. Presumably no other organisation, certainly in Britain, could justify spending £250,000 on such a system. Faster updating of telephone directories has meant the COMPO 80 recouped its cost in the first working year.

Computer microfilm facilities are also offered to customers using equipment at the national Giro Centre in Bootle and the Post Office's Bristol computer centre. Post Office Giro was planned on a computer basis from the outset.

Computing Services Quiz

1. Which is more important?
(a) the computer or
(b) what goes into it.
2. What is the largest single U.K. software export?
3. What is the largest single U.K. software contract?
4. What is the most important computing application?
5. Who has programmed over twelve different computers?

For answers see overleaf



Changing a drum: part of the LACES memory bank, this disc store contains up to 30 million information characters.

Three years before its introduction in 1968, a team was working on the Giro process. Bootle now houses one of Europe's largest computer complexes, covering more than half a million square feet. Based on two ICL System 470 computers, handling 500,000 customers' accounts, Giro has operators working 150 keyboards to transfer information from transaction documents directly on to magnetic tape for computer input.

Similarly, the Department of National Savings (DNS) enjoys a banking system developed on its behalf when it was part of the Post Office. Other work for DNS includes repayment of 8,000 national savings certificates every day, and repayment of five million dividends on stocks and bonds and the national save-as-you-earn contractual saving scheme.

The Post Office also designed and operates television licensing records on an agency basis for the Home Office. The system maintains records of premises and licences for 12 million addresses and produces licence renewal reminders, bills, inquiry letters, etc. - a massive undertaking. The 40 different types of commercial project which NDPS operates include co-operative schemes. These include trade federations representing many small concerns, which can define common computer requirements, sharing the cost between them. One such is the National Federation of Builders and Plumbers Merchants, for which the bureau runs a sales and ledger system.

A graduates' placement service for the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates (SCOEG) is another bureau service. It matches qualifications and job preferences for 5,000 students with 15 degree-granting institutions.

One of the largest in-house projects is telephone billing: the processing of quarterly telephone bills for 12 million customers. The scheme produces bills, ledger, payment reminders and follow-up notices involving 90 computer programs.

Stores control is another big task: the Post Office has computerized the system controls receipts issues, provision and accounting for a total of 40,000 stock items valued at £135m. Speed and accuracy apart, the principal benefit here is that stocks can be held at lower levels than before.

There are 23,660 post offices, and for nine years their cash accounts have been checked and summarised by computer processes. The job involves 150 million ledger entries every year.

Two more services for the postal business are vehicle scheduling and letter-mail circulation. As the busiest postal region, London operates a fleet of 600 vehicles covering 30,000 trips every week; a computer program supervises the allocation of vehicles and drivers for each journey. In addition, a scheme calculating the circulation of letter mail through the postal system from 700 dispatching offices is computer-processed. It involves calculating optimum routes for the dispatch of letters, and connections for 30,000 trains, 7,000 motor vehicles, 50 boats, 50 aeroplanes and 100 local buses.

One of the early users of computers in Britain, the Post Office is still among the leaders. Last year it was one of the first British customers for IBM's powerful 370/158 system, which is

mainly used for research and development work in the telecommunications business. Assistance in the development of Britain's electronic telephone System X, one of the computer's main objectives. It will eventually provide a nationwide problem-solving service for about 3,000 Post Office users.

Recently the Post Office announced the placing of a £5m contract with ICL for

three New Range 2970s as replacements for the Leo 326 machines which have been in continuous use for more than a decade. In all those different ways the Post Office uses its fast-moving technology effectively, as befits one of the largest computer-users in Europe.

The author is senior director, Post Office data processing service.

Bureaux business could grow abroad

by K. F. Jones

International links between computer bureaux are proliferating at both business and technical levels. Takeovers, all too often of British bureaux by foreigners, and mergers are being accompanied by the establishment of data transmission links between bureaux in Britain and their counterparts on the Continent and across the Atlantic. At the same time, thousands of bureau users are making use of computers outside their own countries.

The shape of things, to come for the computer bureau business at both national and international levels is very much the same as that expected for data processing in general. That is distributed processing, the accepted generic term for a concept involving many small satellite computers and terminals, with some local processing power, all linked to a giant central computer.

The central system could hold most of the big files of a major company or international combine together, possibly, with data-bases of commercial, economic or scientific information, and quite likely an extensive library of specialist programs accessible simultaneously to dozens or even hundreds of remote terminals. That last facility is called time-sharing.

Most of the work carried out by computer bureaux involves batches of data on punched cards or magnetic tape being physically transported to the computer centre for processing "over the counter", but processing by remote terminal access is catching up rapidly.

The British bureau industry made a very modest income of about £1m from processing data for foreign clients last year, partly because "over-the-counter" batch processing is usually uneconomic and impractical for overseas clients, but also because data transmission links with the Continent are still limited.

A bureau can do big business in an overseas market without getting itself

enmeshed in complex international terminal network by simply setting up abroad with a full bureau operation; it is an area which British bureaux have in general failed to exploit. One noteworthy exception is the Computer Management Group which, in addition to its computer service centres in Britain, has centres successfully operating in The Netherlands and Belgium.

However, the real international "empire builders" in the computer bureau business are, almost inevitably, the Americans. A substantial part of the British bureau industry is American owned. Recent acquisitions include the Capital Cities bureau at Warfield by the Boeing aircraft company's big computer services division.

GSI has been acquiring CRC time; but the buy in British hands, cause GSI is still digest a rather called Datal who over at the begin year.

CRC points out made life easy to trial clients in France a version in F communications operating system COSMOS. A Gern Computer Dis senter of Berlin similar computer already runs speaking version.

The American international and no discuss national bureau would be compl some mention of Electric Mark III is based on 20 communications computers, inclu Honeywell 6000 tens, at Cleveland Rockville, Maryl

They are lin an extensive net transmission lin munications co puters to hundr all over the worl 15 in Britain: 1 III services at Honeywell.

About 5,000 spread over 15 use Mark III a number of term link into the net some or tens many times that Cleveland and R time are used clock and the scale offered w work as inexpen as a local bureau

Mark III and national bureau of special valu national comp files and record company division the world need able from any world rapidly as

The author is editor, Comput

French are most formidable

The Hoskyns group, one of Britain's best known computer services companies, was recently taken over by the New York-based Martin Marietta industrial combine.

On this side of the Atlantic, the French are the most formidable bureau developers. One of several very large bureaux in France, CISTI (Compagnie Internationale de Service et Information), owns one of the leading British bureaux operating in the scientific engineering sector, SIA, of Victoria, London; a data transmission link between CISTI in Paris and SIA in London is being established. It will enable clients in Britain and France to use files and programs on the other side of the Channel.

A similar data transmission set-up is being arranged between the CRG Group, based at Slough, and another French giant, GSI (Général de Service Informatique), which has 20 bureau centres throughout France.

Lucrative contracts from EEC

by Judith Bloor

Predicting trends in software services is a hazardous business. But despite the latest developments, official statistics reveal a surprising constancy.

The Department of Industry analysis of software services over the past four years reveals that the growth of work carried out in each area of software activity has remained constant. Thus custom built programs account for about a quarter of total billings while package programs make up an eighth. A cost which may prove prohibitive to all but the largest firms.

Indeed one of the biggest software companies has rejected the trend after much careful thought and it remains to be seen whether or not it will become an important service offered by software firms.

However, it illustrates one of the important changes in software services - a melding of the hardware and software branches of computing. This has led many software companies to reject the description "software house" in favour of the more generalised "systems house".

That is indicative of the increasingly specialised needs of users which, to a large extent, must determine the development of software services. More software companies will continue to get most of their revenue from the bread-and-butter business of programming skills.

Software products is the only area which seems likely to grow dramatically - a reflection perhaps of economic stringency as well as increasing specialisation. Why incur the cost of new program development when a program product will suit?

The economic situation in Britain has forced the software services firms to look overseas. Many have had to go no farther than across the channel; they find American companies already having their goods in what they see as a growing market.

American firms, because of the recession in the United States looked to Europe for increased revenues and, having found them, stayed to buy local companies. Like it or not, American ownership of British software firms looks like the next development, but it will depend on accurately assessing the direction of the market.

The author is editor, Computing Europe.

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MRS THATCHER'S NEW YORK SPEECH

Mrs Thatcher's New York speech Monday was her most forthright declaration of the new assertive philosophy—not yet a policy—since she became leader of the party. She has been criticized for choosing the wrong occasion to deliver it on the grounds that there is a well established convention that politicians should not denigrate their country or engage in their party battles when abroad. It is a wise tradition but it is to be interpreted with discrimination. It means that direct, especially personal, attacks on the Government are of place; but it should not bar politicians when overseas from serious analysis of their country's difficulties. It is difficult to see how British politicians would find themselves speaking to increasingly restive foreign audiences these days. On this interpretation Mrs Thatcher can be interpreted completely. It is her direct attention to the one of a carefully reasoned speech.

That theme was to challenge assumptions of what she called the progressive consensus that has dominated British politics for the past quarter century and more: the pursuit of equality and the continuous tension of the role of the state that has followed inexorably. Mrs Thatcher dealt effectively, by means of figures drawn from the recent report of the Royal Commission on the Distri-

bution of Income and Wealth, with the proposition that there has been no significant move towards greater equality in income and wealth. But she is an unabashed champion of the virtues of inequality. She wants the individual person and company to be allowed more scope by the state in the spending of money and the taking of decisions. "Set the people free," she says, "and the virtues of the free market will be revealed in the elections of 1979 and 1983. It may well be the theme again next time."

Mrs Thatcher's argument is easy to caricature. But there are a growing number of people, not confined to any party, who believe that public expenditure takes too large a share of the national income and the bureaucracy exercises too great a sway over the nation's life. It is right that the fashionable assumptions should be subjected to more sustained and searching scrutiny. But this exercise faces two principal tests. The first is whether it can be presented in a way that is not interpreted by the unions, and by that section of the public that has no hope of becoming anything other than a permanent underclass, as an attack upon them. The second is whether it is possible to govern effectively in the face of bitter opposition from the trade unions—which is not to concede that they have in

effect a veto over who should form the government.

How well the Conservatives meet this first test depends to some extent on their success in facing the second. That is to translate these broad aspirations into policy. Everyone likes the idea of paying lower taxes: it is in making the corresponding cuts in public expenditure that the difficulties arise. Where would the Conservatives make their savings? At what points would they repel the bureaucracy? This is not a demand for instant, detailed commitments. What is needed is not a succession of sweeping promises but a process of examining existing public policies to see if the objective is still the right one and if the present method is the best one of achieving it. Too many programmes become taken for granted because they are sanctioned by time and custom. Harsh choices will no doubt have to be made, but so far as possible they need to be preceded by careful research. This is not a task for the Conservatives alone. The recent efforts of the Think Tank in the social field indicate that the need is appreciated within the government machine. But the process is one that a political party can start most easily in opposition, free from the day-to-day pressures of office. Mrs Thatcher has set a theme: her party needs to show that this can be developed into an acceptable agenda for action.

DIALOGUE AMONG ARAB BROTHERS

was presumably with unconscious humour that Mr Mahmoud Abdel Ghaffar, the Egyptian ambassador to Madrid, yesterday scribed his kidnapping by Palestinian gunmen as "no more than a dialogue among some Arab brothers". But the remark could be taken as an apt comment on the present state of Arab unity.

The agreement reached between Israel and Egypt on September 1 has without doubt a greater strain on Arab unity than any there has been since the October War, perhaps since the death of Gamal Abdul Nasser. The attacks on President Sadat and his policy are not this time coming only from the habitual critics of Israel and the Palestinian Resistance Front. The agreement has been censured by the ruling PLO Party in Syria, and by the leading Liberation Organization. The latter has even dropped a broadsheet of hints to the Egyptian armed forces that their duty now is to overthrow President Sadat by closing down the use of Palestine broadcasting in Cairo, thus incurring

the accusation that he was fulfilling a secret promise to muzzle anti-Israel propaganda, and now he has ignored the PLO's condemnation of the Madrid kidnapping and said that he holds the PLO and Yasser Arafat personally responsible for it.

The Syrian and Palestinian concern at the new agreement is certainly understandable. Mr Rabin's interview on *Panorama* last week would have been enough to explain it, when he repeated that he saw no chance of similar interim settlements with Syria or Jordan and had no intention of recognizing the PLO under any circumstances. The Palestinians have for a generation depended on Egypt for a large part of their economic aid, and any improvement in the relationship between Israel and Egypt is a disadvantage to them.

The Syrian objection to the agreement, it appears, is not so much that it removes the actual prospect of war (which the Syrians themselves probably do not want), but that by removing the threat of war it removes the main element of Arab pressure for further Israeli withdrawals and concessions. Yet the efficacy

of that threat depended on the cost of another war to Israel, in human and economic terms, and to America, in economic and political terms. It relied on the assumption that the Arabs could endure a military defeat more easily than another prolonged period of diplomatic stalemate. The likely costs are not significantly lower, nor the assumption significantly less credible because of the agreement than they were before.

The Egyptians may therefore have correctly interpreted the Syrian condemnation of the agreement as a ploy, intended partly to strengthen Syria's position in negotiations with Jordan (and also, one might add, in future bilateral negotiations with Israel and the United States), partly to obtain greater material support from other Arab states on the ground that Syria is now facing Israel alone, and partly to "blot out the voice of the ruling party in Iraq" which is constantly denouncing Syrian readiness to compromise. But what will certainly destroy the credibility of any Arab strategy is the kind of internecine conflict in which the Arabs are now indulging.

R CROSLAND MAKES A VITAL DECISION

a time when housing policy is so many kinds of disarray, a chance to applaud a roughly welcome development did not seem to go by. Crosland has told the London Council of Lambeth, which is to flatten and redevelop 24 acres of housing, that it is a "big decision" and that it is a "big decision" and that it is a "big decision".

At the beginning of the year, when the housing department of some London boroughs, Camden and Wandsworth have also recently come up against ministerial resistance to crude schemes based on the philosophy of the clean sweep.

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Removal of Roman silver hoard

From Mr Nicholas Thomas
Sir, On August 14, 1973, you were good enough to publish a letter from me concerning the menace to archaeology of metal detectors used for treasure hunting. Yesterday (September 11) your report on the Romano-British silver found by an amateur treasure hunter on the site of the Roman town of Durobrivae, near Peterborough, prompts me to draw attention once again to this problem.

Although this hoard of silver was found by casual inspection and not through the use of a detector, the finder has revealed that a fellow hunter has used a detector to recover about 27,000 worth of Roman coins in an adjoining field. The tragedy to archaeology is that, however they were found, the hoard and coins have been removed from their context without record and so rendered valueless except as cabinet specimens. They come from within a known Roman town; if recovered under scientific conditions the coins could have been used to date the structures with which they must have been associated. The context of the silver might have been the greatest single clue to the site's history and its use as a small group of Christians worshipping in a private house? Now we shall never know.

Despite the prompting of my council and other bodies, there is still no agreed code of practice and the use of metal detectors is a threat to our heritage which ought not to be tolerated. This latest discovery makes it all the more urgent that archaeological sites and finds of all kinds are protected by adequate legislation.

Yours truly,
NICHOLAS THOMAS,
President, Council for British Archaeology,
7 Marylebone Road, NW1,
September 12.

The wine war

From Mr John Bart
Sir, Perhaps I am alone in being the only EEC partner who does wish to drink inferior wine—but I do not.

As a side issue to your comments on the Franco-Italian wine war (September 12) readers may like to know that a gallon (5 litre bottles) of local red wine bought at one of the wine co-operatives in Provence cost about £1. This includes nearly 20 per cent VAT. It is drunk in reasonable quantities and without too much complaint by most of the people in the region.

If you bring it into this country the import tax—for that is in effect what it is—nearly £3 and in addition there is a second VAT of 8 per cent.

Let the Government allow free entry or at least reduce the tax and then let us see the effect on the smuggling of wine.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BART,
134 Humber Road,
Blackheath, SE3,
September 13.

The traditional Mass

From Mr Ian Wells
Sir, With the case of F. Oswald Baker at Downham Market, it is time for certain Catholics to raise their heads. I welcome wholeheartedly the reforms of Vatican II, the flexibility of the new liturgy, the emphasis on charity rather than authority. I have attended a number of deeply meaningful masses in England since received communion.

But my preference is for the Tridentine Mass with full ceremonial. There must be many other "traditional" Catholics who are not out to split the Church down the middle, or to revive the Spanish Inquisition, and the Index Librorum Prohibitorum; who do not even wish to impose the old mass on every church but merely seek the opportunity to regularize their own form that best leads them to God.

Given that only certain churches would use the Tridentine Mass, I cannot see that this would threaten the interests of the "ecumenism" of all Christians. The Catholic faith is anyway dispensable when they obstruct the quest for Christian unity.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WELLS,
10 Revelstoke Avenue,
Rise Park,
Nottingham,
September 12.

The Beringske Tidende

From Mr Niels Nordlund
Sir, Your pen-portrait of Beringske Tidende (The World's Press, September 15) is less than fair. We are not habitual liars, as you intimate. We do not consider "facts as impediments to a good news story". If we were and did so, we should hardly qualify to your gracious characterization as a "highly respected publication". Unless, of course, this was intended as a sly slur on our readership.

Permit me, Sir, to relieve you of some of your impediments: we do not lose large sums of money, and we are not propped up by anybody, neither by Government subsidies nor by indirect contributions from the business community. Like many other distinguished newspapers in Europe we were in the red in 1974, in our case for the first time since 1930—but we hope to be in the black again this year. We do not receive Government Party views, and I am sure that the leadership of the Conservative Party in Denmark would confirm this very emphatically. We have a liberal conservative outlook, and we treasure our independence, integrity and veracity as much as you do yours.

Yours sincerely,
NIELS NORDLUND, Editor-in-Chief,
Beringske Tidende,
Copenhagen,
Denmark,
September 16.

Making hydrography a national priority

From the Hydrographer of the Navy
Sir, You have devoted considerable space in recent weeks to matters concerning maritime archaeology and the marking of wrecks. Amongst subjects of much interest to growing sectors of our community. There are grounds, indeed, for genuine concern about our national heritage and also for the safety of our yachtsmen—and claims on public expenditure have been advanced in support of both. The community as a whole, however, is surely less concerned with either the history or the marking of old wrecks than with the need to prevent new ones.

A few weeks ago (August 27) you published another in Sir Edmund Irving's series of letters pointing out the current predicament of the Navy's Hydrographic Service—and the penalties to the nation's economy if it continues to be starved of the modest funds required for its mounting task. And only yesterday (September 11) Sir John Martin voiced the anxiety felt by the maritime profession over the state of the nautical charts on which our shipping has to rely—a situation clearly revealed by the official Report of the Hydrographic Study Group.

This report makes some valuable recommendations, the most important of which is that about £5m per annum, on average, should be provided for the next seven years to expand the Hydrographic Service—simply to enable it to meet the most urgent of the many tasks confronting it at home and abroad. Amongst those tasks are the location and accurate charting of hundreds of wrecks which litter our navigational waterways and pose a potential hazard to the growing number of deep draught tankers using them. No

fewer than 95 such wrecks were found last year in a small area of the English Channel alone.

Despite the official recommendation on the need for more funds it is by no means certain that the Government will act on it—though failure to do so will bring penalties out of all proportion to the financial outlay envisaged. These penalties will involve a rising risk to our maritime trade, an increase in the incidence of shipwreck (with the massive oil-pollution of our coasts that may result), a reduction in the exploitation of our off-shore energy resources—and significant erosion of our balance-of-payments position. These effects are of wider and more immediate importance than those feared by our marine archaeologists and amateur yachtsmen.

Let us put our national priorities right, Sir. In our present economic plight public expenditure has to be reduced. Such wealth as remains to us must be re-allocated to projects of the highest consequence to the true welfare and safety of the realm—and away from the "dubious amenities" to which Sir Edmund Irving refers.

It has been fairly said that the work of the Hydrographic Service represents the greatest single contribution which the Royal Navy makes to the civil community in peace time. The need for that contribution is now shown to be greater than ever. It is the Government's concern your readers—and, indeed, the whole community.

Yours faithfully,
G. P. D. HALL, Rear-Admiral,
Ministry of Defence,
Old War Office Building,
Whitehall, SW1,
September 12.

Schools' success rates

From Mrs M. B. Clark
Sir, May I add a layman's observation to the defence of the Andover Headmasters by Mr A. J. Rees (September 13)?

There is a world of difference in suppressing information, and in choosing not to make a public record of pupils' successes and failures in the local newspaper. We all know the invidious comparisons which are made by parents between pupils, and between schools, when the examination results are presented as "news items". I have no doubt that the examination results in Andover are available to those for whom they have a proper concern.

It is unworthy of Bernard Levin to ridicule these headmasters, who, lacking his expertise in the art of communication, have made an error of judgment. Rather let us praise their honest endeavour to raise the unseemly race-race for O and A levels created largely by pressure from parents, which does nothing to improve the quality of education.

Yours sincerely,
M. B. CLARK, Chairman,
Parent Teachers Association,
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School,
Hexham,
Northumberland,
September 13.

From the Head Mistress of Felixstowe College
Sir, Mr Becham's reply to Bernard Levin (September 15) will not do. Before the secondary reorganisation it was normal practice for local educa-

tion authorities to publish the GCE results of their schools. It is only since these schools have become comprehensive that we have been told that publication is unfair, an invasion of privacy, etc.

When, at the same time, we are assured by the pro-comprehensivists that more pupils are doing better academically in all schools than they ever did in selective schools, we can hardly be blamed for wanting to see some concrete proof of this in the shape of GCE results.

Mr Becham feels that the academic achievement of maintained schools should not be a matter of public concern, and wonders why "great" schools do not publish their results in the press. I would put it to him that the people who pay the fees of the "great" schools certainly demand, and get, full information on which to base their choice. There seems no reason why local people who maintain schools through rates and taxes should be kept in ignorance.

I have no objection to publishing the examination results of this school—with an average of 7.2 "O" level passes per candidate, why should I? However, since our pupils come from all over the world the local paper is not much use to us. This, and not reluctance to publish is, I am sure, the reason why Mr Becham has not seen press reports of the examination results of public and BMC schools.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MANNERS,
Felixstowe College,
Felixstowe,
Suffolk,
September 15.

Human error in accidents

From Dr Glen Bennett
Sir, "Psychological autopsy" sounds sinister. Its implications would be disagreeable for those involved. But your report (September 3) of Dr Haward's researches in pilot error, accounting for half of all air accidents, emphasizes that we may have to face the painful business of inquiring into the personal background of someone recently killed if we are to reduce the terrible toll.

I first experienced this dilemma in 1969 when Donald Crowhurst was accused of cheating in the Sunday Times single-handed round-the-world sailing contest. It was of course a personal tragedy, but material found on board showed it to be a story of great psychological importance. The issue was: should one first and foremost respect the privacy of the bereaved family, or should one seek out whatever lessons there may be which might help others in the future? I chose the latter alternative, and looking back over the subsequent events I do not regret that decision.

The late Nicholas Tomalin and Ron Hall faced the same decision when they researched the story which they published in their book *The strange voyage of Donald Crowhurst*. An immediate result of their book was to silence the distressing speculative accounts of what might have happened since the following year after the *Mary Celeste* was found abandoned but intact near the Azores. It became an important cautionary tale for many adventurers into hostile environments, but for many more an epic about individual striving and as such it has immortalized the name of Donald Crowhurst.

Unratified covenants

From the Reverend Paul Oestreicher and Mr David Simpson
Sir, Seven years ago, on September 16, 1968, Britain signed the United Nations Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, thereby indicating intention to ratify them, to bind and be bound by their provisions. For no sufficient reason, the British Government has still not ratified and the covenants remain unratified.

Together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, these Covenants form an "International Bill of Rights" which both define an elementary enforcement procedure. They contain such important provisions as those in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, prohibiting the use of torture (Article 7) and providing for a fair trial (Article 14). The enforcement procedures include reports by states to the United Nations on measures taken to ensure observance of the rights, with optional clauses for inter-state

complaint and individual petition. These are elementary but nevertheless worthwhile considerations of the sorry state of human rights around the world at the present time.

Britain should ratify the covenants immediately. Thirty-five ratifications are needed before the covenants come into effect and so far the Civil and Political Rights Covenant has 30. The British Government's main objection to ratify immediately, namely that various items in our own legislation are out of step with the standards required by the covenants, could easily have been rectified by now. The vast quantity of other legislative changes which have been enacted since 1968 renders that excuse invalid.

Surely the protection of human rights is such a basic necessity that our Government must immediately take this important step, delayed for so long. Can this country not be among the first 35 to ratify?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL OESTREICHER, Chairman,
DAVID SIMPSON, Director,
Amnesty International,
British Section,
55 Theobald's Road, WC1,
September 8.

Uses of disaster relief force

From Professor A. S. Livingstone
Sir, Here at Manchester we have studied the correspondence in your columns concerning a disaster relief force with great interest. Lieutenant-Colonel Ritchie, RE, a Honorary Fellow of this university, is presently engaged upon a research project into the maintenance of life support systems in disaster situations in developing countries of the world.

Despite his own service background and considerable experience in some of these developing countries, Ritchie's conclusions, as a result of 12 months' work, do not bring him to support the argument for a disaster relief task force. His conclusion draws him to argue that the most effective and cost-effective way to improve results in disaster relief operations is by developing the ability of the indigenous administration to manage its own resources by effective control and co-ordination.

In consequence, foreign relief and longer term aid provided from the many national and international agencies will be better coordinated and utilized. Ritchie is supported in these arguments by at least one of the major United Kingdom charities. This improvement in the employment of indigenous resources promises a considerable decrease of disaster preparedness which is a corner stone of the arguments and policies of the Disaster Research Unit at Bradford University and of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office. Training is an essential element of disaster preparedness, involving a wide programme of education and training throughout the world in order to develop an awareness of the implications and causes of disaster to improve national capabilities to manage indigenous resources in crises.

These views are supported by the evidence of the relief operations in India after the very severe floods, and in Turkey after the earthquake of this year.

Effective management of indigenous resources is a prerequisite of the requirements for disaster relief. No doubt the United Nations Disaster Relief Office also argue this case for indigenous training because the impending expansion of that organization will include an element with responsibility for developing disaster management capabilities and skills in disaster prone countries.

It does seem also that a British or Nato disaster relief force would suffer too many restrictions on its contingency planning, including those which would be imposed by both donor and recipient countries to make a go-anywhere, do-anything force a possibility. Perhaps the dragging of British feet in Whitehall indicates the reality of these difficulties.

Yours truly,
A. S. LIVINGSTONE,
University of Manchester,
Department of Administrative Studies,
Princess Centre,
Manchester,
September 15.

The Greek trireme

From Mr Brian G. D. Salt
Sir, In the interesting discussion on the speed of triremes, none of your correspondents has yet have considered the well-known speed-waterline length ratio, volume over the square root of waterline length. I have a slide rule designed to estimate hull speeds when given shaft horsepower, displacement and waterline length which I have found to be reasonably accurate. Using it in reverse for a given speed, one can estimate shaft horsepower.

If we take the waterline length of the ship as 80 feet, an average trireme as weighing 170 tons, and the ship itself weighing 20 tons, I find that with a crew of 50 such men would have to produce about 2 horsepower to move the ship at 12 knots. With a crew of 500 and allowing no greater displacement for the ship itself, each man would have to produce about 1 horsepower. I think it very unlikely that on long voyages an oarsman could produce continuously more than about 0.1 horsepower.

If we take a crew of 500 each producing 0.1 horsepower with the same length and displacement of ship, the hull speed would be about 8.2 knots.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN G. D. SALT,
Little Sutton Cottage,
49 Sutton Lane South,
Chiswick, W4,
September 14.

From Mr F. S. E. Fawkes
Sir, We have heard a great deal in your correspondence about the difficulties of manipulating a trireme.

When shall we turn to the problem of the quinquireme of Nineveh which, according to Masefield, was rowing home to haven from Ophir with a very assorted cargo—considerable value?

Yours faithfully,
F. S. E. FAWKES,
Stone Way,
Amberley,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire,
September 15.

Plagued by bureaucracy

From Mr A. G. A. Cole
Sir, We felt sympathetic towards farmer Mr John E. Fowler, of Romford, Essex, who complains of being plagued by bureaucracy (September 12).

We are a very small firm who suffer in the same way and on our office wall we keep a chart of 12 "inspector's" who plague our lives. They are mostly such nice fellows individually but how they waste one's time—they toil not neither do they spin—and, as Mr Fowler points out, they all insist on the minutiae of their particular sphere as if that was the only thing that mattered in the whole wide world!

Yours faithfully,
A. G. A. COLE, Director,
The Hampshire Guano Co Ltd,
Newtown,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
September 12.

ys of Hope

the Headmaster of West-r School
conard Buckley, in his review of Kenneth Loach's *Days of Hope*, says that Loach's film is "a masterpiece of a conscientious objector's service". The historical (as distinct from the propaganda) organizations such as the inscription Fellowship which attempting to discredit "conscientious objector's service" support Mr y's view.

was, conscientious objectors were treated no differently from other soldiers and were certainly never forcibly exposed to enemy fire as Kenneth Loach's film implies.

I agree with Mr Buckley that it was all tremendous television but it had little to do with historical accuracy. The film was another dealing with a complex subject, it is worth mentioning that, according to the credits, research for the programme was done by David Bolton.

In 1966, Mr Bolton published a book on the treatment of conscientious objectors in the First World War. What that was written from a left-wing, anti-war position and that was hostile to the civil and military authorities.

Mr Bolton is entitled to his version of these events but the BBC, and could be awarded field merit number one while being secured to a "fixed" for two hours a day. Un-

less appears as mindless jingo and the military as heartless bullies. Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE,
Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard, SW1.

Immigration procedure

From Mr T. W. Gee
Sir, Mr Gilbert reports problems with Heathrow immigration (Letters, September 6). A seminar visiting Indian scholar building health certificate authenticated by the British High Commission, Delhi, arrived at Heathrow with his wife and two young children some two weeks ago, after a 65 hours flight with two delays en route. The immigration authorities kept him waiting two hours until they called a medical officer to check his certificates—which this delay summarily.

Was this delay necessary, and should we greet our visitors thus? Attitudes of first-time visitors are often determined by those who receive them at immigration control in British airports. Yours faithfully,
T. W. GEE,
University of Sussex,
Andrew Cohen Building,
Falmer,
Brighton.

The real issues
behind the
row at Rank,
page 21

Industrial output in Britain shows no sign of early recovery

By Melvyn Westlake

The two-year slide in British industrial output still shows no significant sign of coming to an end, and the rate of decline in recent months seems to have been overtaken by that in most of the other leading industrial countries.

Although official figures for industrial production, released yesterday, seem to indicate a marginal recovery, this is apparently explained by exceptional and purely temporary factors which do not alter the underlying trend.

The Government index of industrial production actually rose to 100.00 in July, equaling the average of 1970, which provides the base for the index from 99.5 in June and May. But this is partly accounted for by the apparent end to destocking in the chemical industry and fresh purchases of some chemical feedstocks.

It is, therefore, something which is unlikely to be repeated. At the same time a recovery in the engineering sector largely offsets the fact that motor car production in previous months was still suffering from the effects of a strike.

Similarly, higher textile output seems to have resulted from the bringing forward of orders by distributors.

Te real underlying trend of output is revealed more clearly when the three months moving average is considered. This shows a drop of 3.5 per cent compared with the previous three months. When compared with the level of production at the peak of the last business

spelling, in the third quarter of 1973, the drop is shown to be more than 10 per cent—the steepest decline in industrial activity since the Second World War.

Even this is thought to underestimate the real extent of the drop, because the figures are based on the level of deliveries rather than actual production. As a result the decline in output in recent months may be 1 per cent greater than it appears when compared with the earlier months this year.

This depressing picture is in stark contrast to the situation in the United States, where a

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers of industrial production in July, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100).

	All industries	Manufacturing
1973 Q1	109.9	109.9
Q2	109.6	110.0
Q3	110.7	111.5
Q4	109.5	110.5
1974 Q1	104.0	106.3
Q2	107.9	108.6
Q3	108.2	108.6
Q4	105.3	108.1
1975 Q1	104.4	105.7
Q2	100.1	100.2
1976 July	109.0	110.5
August	108.9	110.8
September	107.8	108.5
October	106.2	106.6
November	105.8	106.9
December	103.8	104.9
1976 January	105.1	107.2
February	105.6	106.8
March	106.2	106.3
April	101.6	101.7
May	99.5	99.5
June	99.5	99.6
July	100.0	100.3

1.3 per cent rise industrial output in August was the largest single monthly increase since October, 1972. In several other leading industrial countries, too, the rate of decline in output has been slowing down.

In France, Italy and West Germany the drop in the second quarter was between 1.9 and 2.9 per cent, compared with the first quarter, whereas for Britain the drop was more than 4 per cent. Japan actually had a recovery of 2.5 per cent between the two quarters. This reverses the situation at the beginning of the year, when output in Britain was falling rather more slowly than elsewhere.

Among Britain's industrial sectors the fall in the output of metal manufacturers is particularly marked, largely reflecting the depressed level of demand for steel. Between February-April and May-June, the drop was 20.4 per cent.

NEDO chief calls for 5-year industrial plan

By Malcolm Brown

Sir Ronald McLintock, Director-General of the National Economic Development Office, called yesterday for the drawing up of a five-year industrial programme insulated as far as possible from party politics.

Sir Ronald, who was addressing the Association of Economic Representatives in London, said a programme should aim to improve substantially the country's industrial performance by 80.

"Such a programme could, in my view, provide the sense of purpose we need to carry through the difficult months of recession which lie ahead," he said.

He said that the office has been working on such a plan, and that there was a need for clear objectives to which everybody could work and to which government policies were being directed.

Deputy Secretary and Mr. C. Varley are to present

jointly a new "strategy" document to next month's NEDO council meeting.

"There must be open discussion of the measures needed to achieve these objectives, the maximum possible agreement on them and an assurance of greater continuity in the policies affecting industry," said Sir Ronald.

"And there should be systematic arrangements for coordinating the work of the relevant institutions and for monitoring their effectiveness."

There was, he added, a growing number of people who were "fed up with our prolonged industrial difficulties" and anxious to put them right.

"But it is hard in the middle of a recession for individual management and union leaders to make the case for new investment and higher productivity."

"It needs a collective effort to engender the necessary confidence and vision."

Pound at lowest level against dollar

In common with other European currencies, sterling yesterday fell quite sharply against the dollar on the foreign exchanges. The pound fell to its lowest level against the dollar since the currency's revaluation.

However, it recovered partially, to close at \$2.0910, down a net 14 cents on the day and at its lowest closing level against the dollar. Against the other European currencies, the pound had a mixed session. Its "floating valuation" since December, 1971, worsened to 27.6 per cent compared with 27.4 per cent the previous day.

Dealers attributed the dollar's increasing strength to the higher American interest rates and the signs of an American economic recovery.

On the bullion markets the gold price fell to its lowest level for almost a year, dropping 61.25 an ounce, to close in London at \$147.124.

Land-Rover lay off likely today

British Leyland is likely to announce today lay-offs from its Land-Rover plant at Solihull, which has been a strike unit because of a strike by welders at a Birmingham plant.

The strikers are not due to meet again until tomorrow. At the Austin-Morris car plants at Cowley, the management still has to resolve a dispute with 4,000 workers in the body pressing department, who have been told that they cannot have an interim pay deal.

These workers got their last pay increase in February and claim to have warned the company that they would be back for more money if the cost of living rose sharply. The company claims that in the February agreement there was a specific clause ruling out any further claims for 12 months.

At British Leyland's five bus and truck factories in Lancashire, union representatives are about to seek the guidance of a special TUC vetting committee, having been told that a pay deal due to be implemented this week has been ruled not to comply with the new pay code.

The 9,000 bus and truck workers were due to be paid a 5.52 a head lump sum payment as compensation for changes in the pay structure. The Department of Employment has said that this does not comply with the White Paper on pay strategy.

Vauxhall launch a cut-price version of Viva

By Clifford Webb

Vauxhall yesterday announced a new cheap version of its long running Viva. This has been rushed out to counter the Popular, an economy version of the Ford Escort, which was launched three months ago and met with immediate success.

The 1100cc Popular Viva, the best selling version, and 1250cc Viva E both sell for exactly £1,399.

Vauxhall insists that the Viva E is not a stripped down two-door coupe. A spokesman said last night: "This is a comprehensive equipped car. We have reduced the price by £134 compared with the previous cheapest Viva by putting it into limited production and persuading dealers to take a reduced profit margin along with the factory."

Scott Lithgow in offshore oil structures deal

Scottish shipbuilders Scott Lithgow are to develop steel gravity based oil production structures for the North Sea in partnership with Compagnie Francaise d'Exploitation Metallique (CFEM) of France.

Two joint companies will design and market the Seal design of structure for which CFEM are world licensees. A Scott Lithgow spokesman said that the company had been offered a contract to build a series of structures for the collapse of the international tanker market.

£9m payment to tanker owners

Tokyo, Sept 16.—A group of 10 foreign shipowners signed an agreement with Terukumi Kaikan Company to accept a total payment of £9 million (about \$29m) for cancellation of their tanker charter contracts.

The cancellation agreement follows recent talks between the 10 shipowners from Greece, Norway and the United States and the temporary Terukumi receivers appointed by a local court. The cancellation, caused by poor business in the tanker market, involves 12 tankers.

Top-level moves under way to heal boardroom split at Rank

By Our Financial Staff

Urgent efforts involving powerful City and legal personalities are underway yesterday to resolve the serious boardroom dispute at The Rank Organisation.

As Mr. Graham Dawson, Rank's 52-year-old chief executive, apparently prepared to try to resign, attempts to remove him from the board, the company for the first time officially admitted that there was a "problem".

Faced with reports and speculation about his corporate position and his private life since his acrimonious dispute with Mr. Dawson became public last week, Sir John Davis, 68-year-old chairman of the group, said he intended to "honour his undertaking" to make a comment until lawyers have resolved the problem.

Mr. Dawson, who recently returned from honeymoon, has now extended his leave from the office until later this week.

Rank Organisation's solicitors are the City firm of Richards, Butler & Co, of which Mr. E. L. Simpson, also a member of the Rank Foundation, one of the trusts which holds ultimate control of the company, is a senior partner.

However, there were reports yesterday that Lord Goodman was another leading legal figure who had become involved in trying to a formula for resolving the situation at Rank.

The burden of Mr. Dawson's complaint is that he has not been given proper executive responsibility since taking over chief executive last year after Sir John relinquished the job.

But in the City many feel that the present dispute between the two men has served to crystallise a potentially serious management situation at Rank.

Despite substantial efforts to diversify, the company still relies heavily on earnings from its Rank Xerox copying machine business owned jointly with the American Xerox Corporation.

Investors, including Rank's institutional shareholders such as the Prudential Assurance with nearly 2 per cent of the voting shares, are thus watching the present situation closely.

Lord O'Brien, a former Governor of the Bank of England who is now a Rank director and a director of Prudential, has apparently taken urgent steps to acquaint himself with details of the present situation at Rank.

Whether this means, given that Lord O'Brien when Governor of the Bank initiated a move to get institutional shareholders more involved in the companies in which they invest, that City

pressure will be brought to bear on Rank to make fundamental management changes remains to be seen.

There were suggestions yesterday that a big boardroom shake-up, involving the appointment of senior executive directors, the departure of Mr. Dawson and some diminution in the power of Sir John could be the outcome of the crisis.

But the position is complicated by ultimate control lying with the Rank trusts. Sir John is one of the Foundation members. However, another member, Mr. Joseph Rank, chairman of Rank's Xerox Division, the bread makers and flour millers, says that if faced with the dilemma of dealing with a matter which could endanger the Rank Organisation or its profits, the trustees might have to vote on the matter.

One reason why this issue may be forced on the trustees is that the City and the Government made it clear that they dislike non-voting shares.

And some 45 per cent of the Rank non-voting capital is held by Americans, many increasingly disenchanted with their investment and presumably ready to help force changes at Rank.

Behind the row, page 2

Japanese emphasis on growth acceleration

From Peter Hambro

Tokyo, Sept 16

With Japanese inflation under control, Mr. Takeo Miki, the Prime Minister, today revoked the government's tight money policy and announced a series of measures which are expected to push up the country's estimated current growth rate of 1 per cent to 5 per cent during the second half of the fiscal year.

But in a warning to otherwise slightly exuberant businessmen, he said they should not expect to return to the high growth rate of more than 10 per cent enjoyed before the oil crisis.

Outlining the measures, which are designed to ease the business slump and create a market demand of \$428bn during the second half of the fiscal year, Mr. Miki told the Diet that in the past the government had given priority to curbing price rises accelerated by the oil crisis.

Defending the policy of restraining spending, he said inflation had been brought under control, and "the goal of holding consumer price increases to within 10 per cent will be achieved before the end of the fiscal year."

Private production and fixed business investment, however, remained stagnant, and, with exports in a slump, business capacity utilisation was still at a low level.

Reviewing the repercussions of the tight money policy on unemployment and business

profitability, Mr. Miki said: "In view of this situation, I believe that quite drastic policy measures are now called for in order to stimulate the economic activity."

"Fortunately, with a favourable price performance, the conditions have now been met to implement such policy measures. Accordingly the government is now prepared to put forth a fourth package of positive policy measures that surpass in scale the last three rounds of economy stimulation measures, and necessary preparations are under way."

He said measures would be taken to provide substantial additions to the budget and to fiscal investment and loans (within the public sector). The total programme, including \$715m which would be used as financing help for small business, would amount to \$2,857m.

Mr. Miki said additional financing to make up a deficit of \$4,285m in the budget would be met through the issue of government bonds.

He said the government was convinced the economy was about to shift the economy on to a new and sustained path towards stable growth and "anchor it there". Mr. Miki gave a warning to business that the government would attempt to build up the high growth rate it enjoyed in the early 1970s.

"I wish to stress that the forthcoming measures for economic stimulation are not geared to recreating the old dream once more,

Dutch switch reflation plan to jobless

From Sue Masserman

The Hague, Sept 16

The Dutch Government has announced plans to continue the reflation of the economy, stated earlier this summer. The measures proposed are direct government subsidies for part of the employer's share of social security premiums, and the financing of projects to stimulate the construction industry where unemployment is high.

A rise in the general level of VAT from 16 to 18 per cent has been postponed for six months, a move which the government hopes will stimulate flagging home consumption which, however, is only predicted to rise by 1.6 per cent next year. The new reflationary measures will cost the government a further Dfl3,000m (about £533m).

Tax-cut measures introduced in 1975 have been continued, although wage and income tax has been raised for all but the lowest paid income groups. There are many smaller tax cuts which will help the self-employed, the pensioners and invalids.

The central planning office states that the Netherlands's six most important trading partners including Britain, cut back their Dutch imports by almost 10 per cent in the last six months. This has helped to push unemployment in the Netherlands up to almost 5 per cent, and the tone of government policy for the coming year is directed towards fighting unemployment and helping the unemployed.

Fed target for money supply stays unchanged

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Sept 16

At the Federal Reserve system's open market committee's regular monthly meeting today it is understood that no change was made in the annual money supply growth target range of between 5 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

Sources close to the Fed said that it is highly improbable that the committee decided on any further tightening of policy.

It is thought that the committee probably agreed on some minor additional injection of funds to the markets for the coming weeks to hold rates relatively stable, while the treasury and private sector increase their borrowing.

The Times index: 136.78 + 1.75

The FT index: 326.0 + 4.2

How the markets moved

Rises

Accrow	7p to 95p	GKN	5p to 217p
Bardley	8p to 283p	Joseph, L.	4p to 421p
Beck	8p to 533p	Imp Chem Ind	4p to 275p
Beck	10p to 423p	Ladbrooke	1p to 182p
Caravans Int	3p to 16p	Leeds	1p to 342p
EMI	6p to 183p	Weyburn Eng	10p to 240p
Gallenkamp	10p to 113p	Wyatt, W. Higgs	3p to 27p

Falls

Amal Colls	10p to 450p	Ldn Asiatic	2p to 45p
Botolph Claydon	12p to 25p	Mar. Mar.	5p to 153p
Brit Leyland	2p to 35p	Peatson Long	5p to 80p
Brit Leyland	2p to 35p	Photopia Int	1p to 20p
Brit Leyland	2p to 35p	Portugal	3p to 311p
Brit Leyland	2p to 35p	Rothschild	1p to 16p
Brit Leyland	2p to 35p	Unilever	2p to 376p

Equities moved up sharply. Gilt-edged securities closed on a dull note. Sterling fell by 150 points on the day to \$2.0910. The "effective devaluation" rate was 27.6 per cent.

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Grindlays Bank opts for loans to raise £27m

By Christopher Wilkins

Grindlays Bank, which yesterday revealed huge first-half losses of £10.3m, is planning to raise £27m through medium-term loans and has rejected the idea of a rights issue to shareholders.

When added to the proceeds of an issue of 2.4 million new shares to First National City Bank, which will lift Citibank's stake in Grindlays from 40 to 49 per cent, the result will be an injection of well over £30m of new funds into Grindlays.

The terms upon which Citibank will subscribe and upon which the loans will be made are not yet being revealed, but it is expected that Citibank's contribution will be around £7m.

Lord Aldington, Grindlays chairman, said yesterday that the loans, which would be partly in sterling and partly in dollars, will be made available to Grindlays Bank under arrangements being organized by Lloyds Bank.

Lloyds holds 41 per cent of Grindlays Holdings which, after the Citibank subscription, will in turn hold 51 per cent of Grindlays Bank.

Originally the bank had considered the possibility of a rights issue but the scale of the problems combined with a falling share price, effectively ruled out this possibility.

Publication of Grindlays' interim profits yesterday makes it clear how badly the bank is in need of new funds.

Having reported provisions of £14m last year by Brands, its troubled merchant banking subsidiary, Grindlays is now setting aside a further £12m against Brands' property portfolio. This is rather more than the £10m indicated earlier.

All told, the Brands loss before tax emerges as £13.7m, which, coming on top of a £10m profit by the rest of Grindlays, has meant a group trading loss of £3.7m.

Behind the row, page 2

Lord Aldington attributed the necessity for further provisions to "considerable further deterioration" in that part of the property market with which most of Brands' loans were concerned.

He said: "No one can claim to be able to anticipate exactly the future trend in the property market."

Financial Editor, page 21

Conoco in fresh N Sea discovery

By Roger Viole

An exploration group in which the National Coal Board has a one third interest, has found a new natural gas and oil condensate field in the North Sea. The find, about 125 miles north east of Aberdeen and 23 miles north of British Petroleum's Forties Field produced 19.55 million cu feet of gas and 3,065 barrels of condensate and gas.

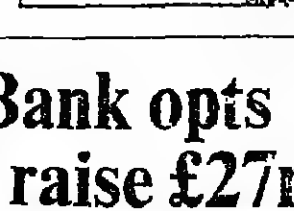
The discovery, the operator for the group, said.

In normal circumstances this would be an encouraging find, but the exploration well was drilled to a depth of 14,000 feet—the deepest in the North Sea—and lies in 486 feet of water. These factors have made drilling a long and expensive business and Conoco says that further study of the test results and the seismic and geological data will be required to determine the commercial significance of the test and whether delineation drilling is justified.

The discovery will provide fresh encouragement for the British National Oil Corporation which is due to take over the NCB's interests in the northern part of the North Sea. Earlier this month the Conoco/Gulf NCB group announced that it had a major discovery in the area north east of the Shetlands.

It's super being
married to a
millionaire.

Don Zolts
World's most exquisite
cream sherry.



Lord Aldington: chairman of Grindlays Bank. Idea of rights issue rejected.

In addition, Grindlays has set aside a further £5.5m by way of general provision against advances—largely with Brands—in mind—so that the overall pre-tax loss emerges at £10.3m. After taxes had been paid on the profitable overseas operations the ultimate net loss was £15.3m.

Last year the bank made a first-half pre-tax profit of £5.98m, although after the Brands troubles had been unveiled there was a full year loss of £6.64m.

Lord Aldington attributed the necessity for further provisions to "considerable further deterioration" in that part of the property market with which most of Brands' loans were concerned.

He said: "No one can claim to be able to anticipate exactly the future trend in the property market."

Financial Editor, page 21

New study of laws on electricity

By Our Energy Correspondent

Twelve Acts of Parliament governing the activities of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales are to be reviewed in yet another move, announced yesterday, which could culminate in the complete reorganization of the industry.

The review, by an official committee appointed by the Department of Energy, will run parallel to the final months of work by the Plowden Committee of Inquiry into the structure of the industry, which is due to report by the end of the year.

As several of the 12 Acts covering the day-to-day operation of the industry date back to the 1880s and 1890s, the Department of Energy has decided to revamp this legislation to take account of modern conditions.

Everything that the area electricity boards and the Central Electricity Generating Board do, from cutting off supplies to defaulting customers to applying for planning permission for new nuclear power stations, is governed by the Acts.

Much of the legislation still holds good despite its age, and this will be included in the consolidated Bill.

Gallenkamp

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30th 1975

	1974/75	1973/74
RESULTS	£	£
Group sales to customers	19,912,000	15,393,000
Group profit before tax	2,490,000	1,531,000
Tax	1,314,000	825,000
Group profit after tax	1,176,000	706,000
Earnings per share	17.8p	10.6p

High speed typewriter launched by Xerox

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Xerox yesterday announced its entry into the "word processing" market with an electronic typewriter which, at 350 words a minute, is claimed to be twice as fast as competitive machines.

Developed by Xerox in the United States, the new machine uses computer technology to give automatic typewriting which—in its range of features as well as its speed—is claimed to be the most advanced on the market.

This move by Xerox is comparable to the entry of International Business Machines into the copier market in April 1970. On that occasion IBM was sued by Xerox for infringement of patents, a case has not yet been resolved.

machine, known as the Xerox 800, is a developed version of a printhead which was used originally in a computer peripheral printer produced by the Diabolo Corporation in the United States. This company was acquired by Xerox in 1972.

According to Xerox-Xerox estimates, the United Kingdom word-processing market is worth about £12m to £14m, and is growing at 20 to 25 per cent a year.

IBM last night also announced two new word-processing products. One is a magnetic card typewriter, the other a dictating system.

The Xerox 800 uses either magnetic cards or tape cassettes.

Political mismanagement blamed for problems of food industry

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Robert Wadsworth, vice-chairman of the Food and Drink Industries Council, claimed yesterday that the food processing industry was steadily "going broke" because of political mismanagement by the Government.

Attacking government proposals for further price restraint in a speech to the International Food Industry's Conference in London, Mr Wadsworth, Cadbury Schweppes director responsible for company development, said the responsibilities of Mrs Williams, Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection, included the restraint of prices for political ends.

Attack on 'doublethink' over Land Bill

By Malcolm Brown

The Government was urged yesterday to drop its Community Land Bill. Mr Bob Willan, president of the House Builders' Federation told a meeting of the HBF's council in London that the Government was indulging in "doublethink" over the Bill.

A few days ago the Department of the Environment had issued a circular to local authorities on the need for them to refrain from spending. But the Bill, published earlier this year, had stated that local authorities would be expected to spend between £300m and £400m a year acquiring land and that administrative costs would amount to another £50m.

"However much one may admire the charm, intellect and political dexterity of Mrs Shirley Williams, the fact is that her responsibilities do not include the economic well being of industry," he said.

The food industry was going ever more deeply into the red not because of bad management or failure to invest, but because of "political mismanagement, not confined only to the party now in power."

Mr Wadsworth said the Government was committed in the White Paper, *The Attack on Inflation*, to securing a 10 per cent rise limit on "goods of special importance of family expenditure."

Further evidence has been submitted to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth (the Diamond Commission) by the accountancy bodies.

In this evidence, which follows submissions earlier this year on dividend income, the accountancy bodies discuss the limitations to any "fairer distribution" of income; and they go on to make detailed submissions on what should be included in income and wealth. Referring to the implied application of further measures to attain the "fairer distribution" of income which the Government wants, the accountancy bodies point out,

"We recognize that the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection is back again to its game of playing the politics of the social contract, albeit now somewhat tarnished," he said. "Should we use the analogy of the fable of King (or Queen) Canute? Perhaps this time she may have the better luck to command the waves to recede when the tide of inflation is already on the ebb."

Excessive price control had led to losses of more than £750m in the past year for four main nationalized industries. Food processors were also squeezed hard, but without the state taxpayer.

among other things, that economic development will be hindered by uncertainty about such forthcoming measures.

They also point out that the present economic crisis is a particularly inopportune time for any major experiments in fairer distribution.

They say there is a limit on the action which the Government can take to promote this object, beyond which "economic development will be impaired, so that eventually there are less resources available. The detailed submissions on what should be included in income and wealth include claims that greater emphasis should be given to disposable income.

Opec opens talks on future prices strategy

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' economic commission declined to comment yesterday after their first meeting in Vienna on oil prices.

Opec experts are expected to draw up recommendations on future pricing strategy to be presented when the nine-month freeze on crude prices ends on September 30. According to Opec sources the commission is due to stay in session until the weekend and might continue until the start of the full ministerial meeting of Opec next Wednesday.

Tokyo car curbs denial

After suggestions last week that the Japanese car industry had been requested to impose a voluntary curb on exports, the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry yesterday denied that such moves had been made. Mr Satoru Sato, the Japanese Trade Secretary, arrived in Tokyo yesterday but it was thought doubtful that he would seek export restraints during his week-long talks.

Jensen receivers

Mr John Griffiths, the receiver and manager of Jensen Motors, has given the company's distributors and dealers an assurance that the company's parts and service facilities will be maintained and that warranty claims will be honoured.

£2m BL plant plan

British Leyland Truck and Bus Company is to modernize their Bathgate plant and to extend the plant's tractor assembly line at a total cost of £2m. The investment is being made in the face of falling demand for the Redline range of trucks produced at the plant.

Bank secrecy stays

The Swiss federal council says it has found no compelling reason to seek changes in laws relating to bank secrecy in Switzerland. Earlier Swiss National Bank officials had informally broached the idea of ending numbered accounts.

Textile lay-offs

Hundreds of threadmill workers at J. P. Coats of Paisley, who have been on a short-time four-day week for six months, are to go on a three-day week. About 200 part-time workers are to be laid off for periods of up to five weeks.

Chase Trust deal

Chase Manhattan Bank has agreed to buy \$150m of the Chase Manhattan Mortgage and Realty Trust assets, it was announced in New York yesterday. The assets are largely short-term mortgages where the borrowers need \$30m in additional financing, which Chase bank is to supply.

Japan plans stockpile of commodities

Tokyo, Sept 16.—Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry said today it plans to have a government sponsored corporation stockpile of copper, aluminium, zinc and lead.

The move is designed to promote imports of primary goods in line with the country's economic cooperation with foreign countries. The ministry will seek \$1,000m yen (about £81.5m) in the fiscal 1976 budget to finance the projected stockpile.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Report's realism on energy conservation

From Mr Joseph Gibson

Sir, The first report from the Select Committee on Science and Technology: *Energy Conservation* (House of Commons Paper 487) provides a realistic approach with practical suggestions for tackling our energy problems which will be widely welcomed by fuel technologists.

This Institute has taken every opportunity to point the need for an energy policy to carry through the programmes of energy conservation, development and allocation of resources, and the related R and D so vital to our future.

The report provides the basis for such a policy, and recommends the setting up of a "task force" with status, powers of control and funds adequate to carry out the tasks defined in the report. We might debate the composition of the task force and advocate more independence, but this

could waste time. There is urgent need for a quick start, to get things done and to mobilise public support.

"The practical implementation of measures of fuel efficiency, particularly in industry, depends upon the availability of sufficient trained manpower." May I suggest that universities and polytechnics, which despite acute financial difficulties and which have vacancies, be asked to help.

They will need more government money for it, will suffer inconvenience and may have to improvise. This Institute offers assistance, and will respond fully to other requests to co-operate towards the speedy implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

JOSEPH GIBSON, President, Institute of Fuel, Coal Research Est., Cheltenham.

Economics of thermostats

From Dr J. W. Nicholas

Sir, It seems strange that none of your correspondents have reasoned the economics of thermostats out from first principles. Had Mrs Howell (September 4) done so she would have realized that she is, in effect, claiming to have created energy (in gross defiance of the First Law of Thermodynamics), and that therefore there must be some error in her experiments, or defects in her meter.

No form of energy can be created or destroyed. Electricity passing through an immersion heater is converted into an exactly equivalent quantity of heat which passes to the water and the cylinder containing it, raising the temperature of both by a definite amount. This is the only way in which heat can enter the system.

Heat can leave the system in only two ways. Hot water can be drawn off, containing a quantity of heat proportional to the volume of water and the amount by which the temperature has been raised, or heat can be wasted by conduction, convection and radiation to the cooler surroundings of the cylinder.

The extent of this last depends on time and the temperature difference between the cylinder and its surroundings (to which it is approximately proportional). It is also influenced by insulation, but this is never perfect, so loss cannot be eliminated.

If the heater is left under the control of the thermostat during a period when hot water is not required, then for the greater part of this period the cylinder will be close to its maximum temperature and waste of heat will be the maximum possible for the system.

If, on the other hand, the heater is switched off the cylinder will cool and lose progressively less heat as it approaches the temperature of its surroundings.

VAT liability on postal services

From Mr J. C. Aspin

Sir, It is surprising that you have published two letters (September 12 and 15) giving support to what appears to be tacit approval of law-breaking, albeit through ignorance.

The question of VAT liability on postal services is clear. I quote: "The exemption covers services under provided by the Post Office (their italics). Exemption does not extend in any similar service. If a taxable person (ie, a trader) is involved in the necessary charge, it is taxable" (VAT Notice no 701, three lines below the text taken by the Rev Ilex Pullenayegum).

Your correspondents suggest in their letters that traders have been trying to make an extra profit out of them. When Miss Bynne, on the advice of her "business friend," wrote to suppliers saying she never paid VAT on postage and neither did they, she was quite wrong.

Her receiving "so far, no comment" is probably attributable to the fact that the trader had already had the laborious task of breaching down the entry of his invoice in the necessary seven column VAT register he is obliged to keep, and including it in his statutory VAT return form and would, no doubt, write off the loss incurred as a reasonable cost in order to avoid further expensive and time wasting correspondence and accounting.

It is difficult to understand how a VAT Office has advised the Rev Pullenayegum to the effect that VAT may be charged for the use of stamps. There is no "may" about it. The charge must be made, what is more, the regulations also state, "VAT cannot be waived as a reasonable cost in order to avoid further expensive and time wasting correspondence and accounting."

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Protest over special TV rates

Controversy continues over the question of special rates being charged for advertisements shown with Dr No, the first of a series of James Bond films to be transmitted next month on ITV.

The situation has been aggravated by an announcement that Trident Television, the advertisement sales organization for the Yorkshire and Tyne Tees ITV contractors, is to follow Thames Television's lead and make a special charge. Another large contractor, ATV, has dropped the idea, partly because of its "political implications".

Mr Ray Morgan, chairman of the Media Circle which represents most of the large advertising agencies, says he is far from satisfied by the partial withdrawal. He is making formal protests against the scheme in conjunction with the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.

The agencies maintain that an important principle and a possible infringement of the spirit of the Independent Broadcasting Act is at stake. The association of special

Advertising & marketing

advertising rates with named programmes, comes too close to programme sponsorship for comfort, they say.

Young & Rubicam, in its latest media review bulletin, points out that the surcharges could lead to programme schedules being largely determined by the advertisers, a "situation which the Act is designed to prevent".

The television companies are cutting "right across this principle" and are opening up the possibility of an advertiser being able to buy into a programme if he is prepared to pay the price. This seems to us only a short step from personalised sponsorship.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which has a statutory duty to see that the Act is observed, is staying silent on the debate. According to a spokesman yesterday, it has

"no responsibility for setting the rates charged by contractors" and therefore it cannot comment on whether or not the surcharges are satisfactory.

While stressing that advertisements must be kept strictly separate from programmes, the Act does allow unspecified "special charges". It does, however, charge the authority with determining the detail of the scope and circumstances of these charges.

The Act also provides against discrimination for or against particular advertisers. The programme contractors' argument is that the surcharges are a method of complying with this clause.

Radio station opens

Pennine Radio, the fourteenth independent local radio station in the IBA network, started broadcasting yesterday. The largest backer of the station, which will serve the Bradford area, is the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers & Textile Workers, which holds 14 per cent of the shares.

Patricia Tisdall

U S-Russian grain deal soon

Moscow, Sept 16.—Mr Charles W. Robinson, United States Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, ended five days of talks with Russian officials today and said he is "very optimistic" about the signing of a long-term grain sale agreement in the next few weeks.

Although details were not disclosed, Mr Robinson spoke of a "multi-year agreement involving a substantial amount of grain". Mr Robinson said Russian officials had accepted the principle of long-term agreements.

Japan plans stockpile of commodities

Tokyo, Sept 16.—Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry said today it plans to have a government sponsored corporation stockpile of copper, aluminium, zinc and lead.

The move is designed to promote imports of primary goods in line with the country's economic cooperation with foreign countries. The ministry will seek \$1,000m yen (about £81.5m) in the fiscal 1976 budget to finance the projected stockpile.

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INTERIM STATEMENT

BICC

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

Half Year to 30th June 1975

(based on unaudited figures)

	June 1975	June 1974	Year 1974
	£m	£m	£m
GROUP SALES	376.000	395.000	782.000
PRE-TAX PROFIT*	17.264	24.305	39.461
AFTER-TAX PROFIT	9.600	12.775	22.673
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS	5.917	9.389	16.307
* After finance charges	5.690	5.602	12.720
EARNINGS PER SHARE (Before Extraordinary Items)	5.75p	8.38p	14.68p

Statement by
The Chairman, Mr. William Fraser, C.B.E.

RESULTS

The salient features, with comparisons for the corresponding period in 1974, are as undernoted:

Sales at £376 million are 5% down. The reduction is due to lower copper prices and reduced level of activity offset by the effect of inflation on the cost of production both in the U.K. and Overseas.

Export Sales at £50 million are marginally down but orders received amounted to £129 million compared with £100 million.

Profit Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders after minority interests but before extraordinary items is 28% lower at £5.917 million.

The Number of Issued Ordinary Shares has increased by 63 million to 119 million due mainly to the conversion of the 6% Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1988/93.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

Your Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 2.25p net per share (1974—2.25p) payable on 2nd January 1976 to Ordinary Shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 14th November 1975. The dividend policy for the year will be determined when the full results for the year are available and will of course be subject to the current statutory legislation.

INFLATION

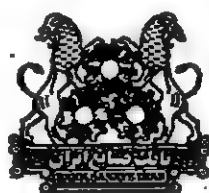
The Government's programme against inflation came into effect on 1st August and a guide to this has been widely circulated throughout the nation.

As must be expected, these emergency measures contain many injustices and anomalies and I believe that it is imperative that more sophisticated procedures and objectives be worked out without delay through proper consultative machinery between Government, industry and the T.U.C. In the meantime, and despite the shortcomings of the existing programme, I think it is up to each and all to co-operate to the maximum to overcome the problems and see that the measures work pending some more mature and permanent solutions to the difficulties and dangers which are and have been confronting the country for some considerable period of time.

GENERAL

Both in the U.K. and Overseas, with certain minor exceptions and particularly during the second quarter of the year, the general level of incoming orders—with the exception of exports—has fallen substantially and that position still persists at the time of writing this Statement. I cannot foresee any improvement in the situation for the balance of the year and in these circumstances, coupled with the uncertainty in the international trading and economic field, it is impossible to forecast the results for the second half of the year.

BICC Limited 21, Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QN



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This is Bill-Broking

The latest edition of 'This is Bill-Broking', published by Allen Harvey & Ross Limited, short-term bankers and money market specialists, is packed with information in non-technical language about London's money markets and how corporate fund managers can use them to the best advantage. It also contains an account of the bill-broker's operations and a useful glossary of technical terms.

First published in 1966, the new and completely revised 6th edition of 'This is Bill-Broking' contains all the corporate treasurer needs to know about short-term money matters.

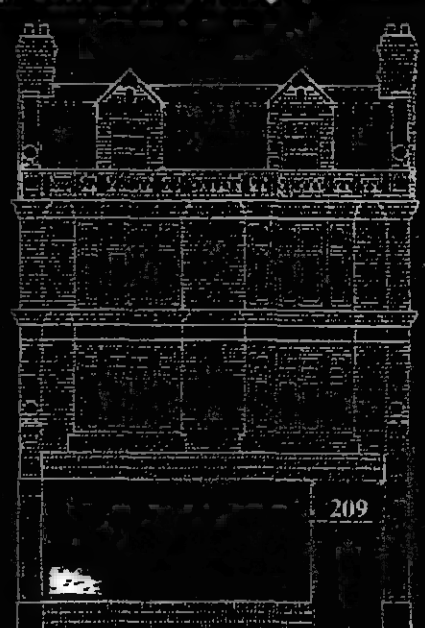
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Louis NEWMARK Limited

The Chairman, Mr. Geoffrey Newmark reports:

The recession in the textile industry, referred to when half year profits were announced in January last, continued. However, other activities of the Group, including our Swiss subsidiary, progressed satisfactorily and reduced the extent of the fall in profits caused by this recession.

We have continued to examine closely all our business activities, drastically pruned those considered doubtful, and expanded those deemed to have good prospects. The increase in Group stock values reflects the investment in those latter activities and in forward sold equipment.

The Board has no reason to be pessimistic as to the present and future prospects of the Group, and banking facilities are such that no liquidity problems are expected.

I thank all employees in the Group for their contribution to our successful trading in these difficult times.

Salient Figures:	1975 (£000's)	1974 (£000's)
Turnover	1,065	8,064
Profit	1,065	1,152
Manufacturing	4,769	196
Merchandising	1,261	13,835
Profit after Taxation	882	778
Ordinary Dividend	4,571.5p	4,676.7p

Copies of the full report and its abridgement from the Secretary, 80 Gloucester Road, Clifton CV9 3LD

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Grindlays after the refinancing

Appalling though the interim figures are, the time may now be ripe to buy Grindlays' shares. Admittedly the Brands situation has turned out even worse than expected. The latest £12m of provisions brings the total so far set aside against the property book to more than £20m, around a fifth of its nominal value, and who is to say there is not yet more to come? Overall Brands losses so far amount to £25.5m, with part of the £6.5m extra general provisions also attributable to the merchant bank.

But while much regarding the Citibank share subscription and the £25m loan state remains to be clarified, it is possible now to mount a strong positive case for the future. Grindlays seems likely to subscribe around £7m or so, which would bring the total capital increase to some £34m.

Despite net interim losses of £15.9m, total capital resources would appear to be close to £80m, while deposits are apparently holding steady at around £150m—not perhaps the kind of capital strength to satisfy the purists but sufficient in the circumstances. The scale of the Citibank, and to a lesser extent the Gulf and the Far East have been performing especially strongly, and profits on Euro-currency lending are also improving.

Whether all this means second-half profitability, Grindlays is not prepared to say. A dividend payment can be ruled out. But the shares, currently 41p, can be expected to take a longer-term view, which means paying more attention to the sound fundamentals of the banking business and the £24m of tax losses remaining from the Brands fiasco.

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £13.9m
Pre-tax loss £10.5m (£5.69)
Dividend gross (2.52p)
* Profit

Bank of Scotland A good first half

With volume growth of around a fifth last year, Bank of Scotland had a fair amount of momentum behind it as it moved into its 1975/76 accounting period. So, despite a flat trend in lending since the last year (and a doubling of additional provisions against doubtful debts to £1m) the group has produced a considerably more respectable performance than the English clearers. There is a marginal improvement in the pre-tax figure at the end of the story. For even after allowing for an additional special provision for the pension fund of £1m, group operating profits, after all pension fund provisions, show a rise from £7.3m to £8.4m.

As far as the general business is concerned, the situation appears to have been as reasonable growth in local branch deposits allowing the group to run off its more costly

money market deposits. But North West Securities, the group's h-p operation, has had a good half year as the cost of funds has fallen, while there has also been good growth at Bank of Scotland Finance, the new banking end of the business. Even so the prospect of something like maintained earnings and a prospective yield of 5.4 per cent (assuming a maximum dividend increase) still leaves the shares at 255p on a more adequate premium to the sector.

Interim: 1975/76 (1974/75)
Capitalization £82.2m
Pre-tax profits £7.42m (£7.32m)
Dividend gross 6.815p (6.194p)

Brokers Commission rates to rise?

Given the problems in the banking community last autumn, J & A Scrimgeour has emerged from the year to end May in none too bad a shape with operating profits only some 12 per cent lower at £25,000. That, however, was only after trading profitably for the first seven months of the year, reducing the wage bill by £119,000 and holding other costs steady in monetary terms.

The question now, however, is to what extent Scrimgeour can continue to trade profitably given that it has probably gone just about as far as it can go in terms of rationalization and cost-cutting. And what clearly the group just now is that The Stock Exchange should have chosen a moment of a fresh downturn in market volume to have announced its increase in the general levy on member firms from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent of gross revenue with effect from next January.

Like many other brokers, Scrimgeour feels that if the levy on member firms is to go up, then member firms should be able to pass the additional cost on to the customer. The Stock Exchange committee is currently receiving evidence from member firms and is expected to deliver a report and recommendations by the end of October. It may be that some firms will press for changes in the system of sharing commission with clients rather than such of an overall increase in rates. But the pressure for higher rates looks to be strong.

BICC Looking beyond the trough

Back in March I said that BICC's shares, then at 109p, had in the yield a prop against any further substantial fall, but that they were unlikely to advance short-term. And here we are, six months on. BICC's shares are standing at 104p, and I am beginning to think in terms of a buy.

Not that there is anything in the group's current trading to justify much optimism. First-half profits were rather below most expectations, with a downturn at home and—despite a good performance in South Africa—abroad. And the chairman's comments on the outlook are dismal in the extreme. With the exception of exports—where an improvement in the order book from £100m to £120m reflects a highly specialized nature of some of the group's products—the level of incoming orders "has fallen substantially", and no improvement is

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £22.2m
Sales £56.3m (£48.3m)
Pre-tax profits £4.13m (£2.77m)
Dividend gross 2.48p (2.13p)
* Not including consideration for Ernest Scragg.

expected before the turn of the year.

There might be an element of compensation in this for earlier over-optimism; but although the Balfour Beatty construction business is back on to a better footing after last year's provisions, it is difficult to see the outlook for cables for siding capital for consumer end-use improving much short-term. So the second half performance is likely to be worse than that of the first six months, with an outturn of may be £32m pre-tax in all against last year's disappointing £39.5m.

Even if we have to look towards the end of next year, for world economic recovery, however, there is no doubt that BICC, with around half of its sales being made abroad, will be a major beneficiary. And in the meantime the balance sheet is improving, thanks to last year's decline in copper prices which—because the pipeline had been extended by heavy ordering—is only just beginning to show through in terms of borrowings and finance charges.

At the interim stage the latter were £5.69m, against £7.12m in the second half of last year; but the current six months should see a dramatic improvement. What happens once the copper price starts moving again remains to be seen; but at least the group's management has the sense to appreciate that "rights" money on present terms would be very expensive indeed. Meanwhile, it looks safe enough to go for a maintained dividend, implying a yield of 9.8 per cent. It is not yet time to buy for recovery; but it is time to bear it in mind.

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £123m
Sales £37.6m (£35.5m)
Pre-tax profits £17.3m (£24.3m)
Dividend gross 3.47p (3.36p)

Stone-Platt New orders slow down

Having produced a profits forecast only last month in its offer document for Ernest Scragg, Stone-Platt Industries did not produce any surplus yesterday, but the shares ended the day unchanged at 71p after an initial jump to 75p.

What the figures did show was an increase in margins, pre-tax profits having increased 48 per cent on turnover up 37 per cent, largely thanks to a new belt-lightening and an increased contribution from the electrical division.

The company now expects full-year profits to rise at least in line with inflation, indicating a curtailment of profits growth. Scragg will be in for the final three months, and S-Pi sees it as being complementary to its own textile interests and has hopes of introducing new business to Scragg, helping to iron out some of the six-month profit fluctuations.

Although order books are still reasonably good, S-Pi has noticed a fall in new orders for textile machinery and marine solid propellers, results of the recession in the textile business and the tanker crisis. On a prospective yield of 6.37 per cent S-Pi may have to show evidence that it can come to grips with Scragg's problems and to adjust to an order downturn to attract new investor interest.

Interim: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £22.2m
Sales £56.3m (£48.3m)
Pre-tax profits £4.13m (£2.77m)
Dividend gross 2.48p (2.13p)
* Not including consideration for Ernest Scragg.

Margaret Walters explains the background to the present boardroom battle

The real issues behind the row at Rank



Mr Graham Dowson, Rank's chief executive, left, and Sir John Davis, chairman: a conflict over the group's future profile.

Controversy over the future of Mr Graham Dowson, The Rank Organisation's chief executive, is just one symptom, albeit the most dramatic one to date, of the growing dissatisfaction expressed by the group's shareholders with its policies, or rather, those of its chairman Sir John Davis.

To the average member of the public The Rank Organisation brings to mind the Man with the Gong, the famous film symbol, bingo, restaurants and a host of leisure related activities. To the city or Wall Street investor the company means Rank Xerox, the associate that contributed some £55m out of £52m pre-tax profits last year, plus a number of acquisitions, none notably successful.

The present disagreement between Sir John and Mr Dowson, and the developing one between Sir John and his shareholders, is about which of these two profiles the group will present to the investment community in the future.

Intimately bound up with decisions on non-Xerox activities is Sir John's own future—what of the man who was the main inspiration for Rank's last five years of diversification away from Xerox, although, ironically, one who played midwife to the concept in the early 1950s. Much has been said, and much more will be said, about the extraordinary control exercised by the 68-year-old Sir John over group policy. The most significant historical elements in this appear to have been, first, his success, as a young accountant in the late 1940s, in rescuing Mr J. Arthur Rank's film company from what looked like imminent receivership.

While the partnership of the devout Methodist film-maker with the ultimately many times married Sir John looked an unlikely combination, the seal on this commercial relationship was his decision to back an unknown United States company, Haloid, in what was to become the Xerox process in 1958.

One million pounds of venture capital may seem small beer now, particularly when compared with the scale of future forays such as the £350m bid for Watney's, but it was a great deal of money for The Rank Organisation at the time. Since then Xerox, and those who acquired a slice of the action, have achieved the sort of spectacular growth patterns enjoyed by a top handful of United States companies.

From the 1960s onwards the Rank Organisation acquired great investment prestige. Between 1965 and 1974 post-tax profits, including Rank Xerox, grew from £7.3m to £32.3m.

At the peak of its share price performance in the early 1970s its earnings commanded a multiple of well over 30, on the strength of heavy buying by American investors who have traditionally been prepared to pay rather more than their United Kingdom counterparts for good growth situations and saw Rank as a "cheap" way to participate in Xerox.

All the interest was based on the group's share of Xerox. Sir John's defenders in the City claim that the decision to bid for Watney's in early 1972 as a trumpet call to a diversification away from the Xerox without a serious dilution of shareholders' earnings. The bid was dropped, but the ill-will created

growth per annum upon which Rank now depended almost solely for its progress.

But more cynical observers argue from the time that came to Rank when it bought it as it was to its own shareholders. By last year, Rank, by acquisition and its own initiative had landed itself with a £100m property development programme. The scale was large even when compared with the programmes of the United Kingdom's leading developing companies and the rental base was minuscule.

There were a host of other smaller ventures over the past half decade that on a smaller

lived on. In many ways the attitude of United States investors seems ostrich-like.

Since the row about Mr Dowson's own future has come out into the open, there have been many reservations expressed about the future of Rank Xerox, its capacity to grow through a recessionary situation and the possible saturation of the market.

But the Rank Organisation's policy after Watney's, in which it attempted to diversify without arousing such damaging hostility, has hardly been a success. It took over Olden's, the City's most secretive

property company later on in 1972.

It appears that Olden's was just about as much a secret to Rank when it bought it as it was to its own shareholders.

By last year, Rank, by acquisition and its own initiative had landed itself with a £100m property development programme. The scale was large even when compared with the programmes of the United Kingdom's leading developing companies and the rental base was minuscule.

THE RANK ORGANISATION BOARD

Sir John Davis* (chairman)
Mr Graham Dowson* (chief executive)
Mr Russell Evans* (secretary)
Sir Robert Bellinger (resident, National Savings Movement, Former Lord Mayor of London)
Major Rosalyn Cowan (chairman, Rank Foundation)
Sir Reay Geddes (chairman, Dunlop)
Sir Arnold France (chairman, Central Board of Finance, Church of England, Former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue)
Mr Cyril Hamilton (former Den Chief Cashier Bank of England and former vice-chairman, Standard and Chartered Banking Group)
Lord Halsey (director of ICFC, Imperial Group, Midland Bank, Former Joint Firm Secretary to Treasury and Head of Home Civil Service)
Mr Frank Kelghiey (former director, National Provincial Bank)
Mr Denis Houston (chairman, Eagle Star, which owns 13 per cent of Rank Org shares)
Lord O'Brien of Louthbury (former Governor, Bank of England, Director Prudential Assurance, which owns 2 per cent of Rank Org shares)
The Hon Angus Ogilvy (director of various companies, Husband of Princess Alexandra, cousin to the Queen)
Mr Frederick Read
Sir Robert Shone (former Dir-Gen, NEDC)
Mr Henry Smith
Sir Richard Treharne (chairman, Milk Marketing Board)
* Executive director.

Anglo-Thai Corporation

Highlights from 1975 Group Accounts

	1975 £'000	1974 £'000
Turnover	74,701	65,421
Profit before taxation	8,631	8,440
Profit attributable to shareholders	4,782	4,534
Dividends	262	241
Profit retained	4,520	4,293
Assets employed	23,415	18,959
Shareholders' funds	21,518	16,872
Ordinary shareholders		
Earnings per share	21.05p	21.40p
Dividends per share	1.26p	1.19p
Dividend cover	16.75	18.15

The following are extracts from the Chairman's statement and Directors' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1975:

The Group profit of £8.6million before taxation and the profit of £4.8million attributable to shareholders are in line with the forecasts made last year. In view of the unsettled conditions which prevailed during part of the period under review, the results for the year can be considered to be more than reasonable.

The ordinary dividends for the year, including the related tax credits, amount to 1.89p per share (1974 1.72p per share) which represents the maximum increase allowed by United Kingdom Government regulations.

During the year the Group purchased for cash C. & E. Baitz Proprietary Limited, a well known liqueur manufacturing company in

Australia. Since the end of the financial year the acquisition of the Grantham Motor Co. Ltd. has been completed. These acquisitions are in accordance with Group policy of diversification away from our principal areas of operation. The Group is in an extremely strong liquid position and, as such, is well placed to make further acquisitions in line with this policy, and various possibilities are being explored at the present time.

In view of the Group's widespread interests and the varying economies of the countries in which it operates, it is extremely difficult to give a firm indication of future profitability. However, present indications are that there could be a downturn in profits during the early part of the year with some recovery occurring towards the end of the year and continuing into the following year.

Geographical Analysis

The following table shows a broad geographical distribution of Group assets and profits before tax:

	1975 Net Assets	Profit Before Tax %	1974 Net Assets	Profit Before Tax %
United Kingdom	15	6	22	5
South East Asia (excluding Thailand)	29	15	32	17
Thailand	19	19	14	16
Far East	27	58	22	60
Australia	7	2	6	3
Canada	3	—	3	(1)
India	1	—	1	—
	100	100	100	100

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the Secretary
THE ANGLO-THAI CORPORATION LIMITED
Lee House, London Wall, London EC2Y 5AN

Business Diary: No truck with BL • Bottle party

One of the talking points at the Frankfurt Motor Show this week is the absence of any British Leyland commercial vehicle. At the last Frankfurt show two years ago the British group made quite a splash with the Marathon, a new heavy-weight lorry designed specifically for the European market. When it was launched in August, 1973, Ron Ellis, managing director of the truck and bus division boldly announced: "We are aiming at a 20 per cent share of the European truck market." To achieve that we have to get into the big fleets and without a super-heavy to carry the banner and be seen on the roads of Europe we have been badly handicapped.

But the key to selling lorries in Europe is the establishment of a comprehensive sales and servicing network covering Germany's vast autobahn network. Sad to say, British Leyland has still to make the first move.

At Frankfurt the view is that A. Brüggemann GmbH, the Düsseldorf-based company, which handles all British Leyland car franchises in Germany wants nothing to do with commercial vehicles. Although British Leyland has a minority interest in Brüggemann, the German directors apparently insist that they have enough on their hands trying to sell cars which have yet to reach the standards of quality acceptable to the Germans without taking on the much more specialized lorry business.

Bert Lawrence, the newly-appointed director of European Operations for British Leyland International, was commendably frank about it all: "We are not showing commercials in

Frankfurt because we do not have a dealer-service network. It is like the car situation, we are then having to turn them down", he said.

He denied that British Leyland had tried to push Brüggemann into commercial vehicles, but added: "Since the new British Leyland company came into being, we have been carrying out a complete reassessment of our European marketing strategy. It may be that when that is complete we shall decide on an approach to commercials which is quite independent of Brüggemann."

Truckmen agree that the German market is the toughest not to crack in the whole of Europe. But with Mercedes-Benz and other West German manufacturers already operating from established British networks, British Leyland must attack them in their home market to defend its own domestic sales.

Case of wine

Pierre Lardinois's sideways at British excise duties on imported table wines—even times higher than what EEC growers sell the stuff for—was welcomed by Maurice Edelman in London yesterday.

Edelman, Labour MP for Coventry North West and director-general of the Franco-British Council, is just back from Bordeaux and a "colloquy" with France's declining exports of British wine imports. The colloquy, arranged by the council but paid for by brewers Bass Charrington, brought representatives of the French and British trades face to face with George Thomson, EEC Commissioner for Regional



From London to Brussels via Bordeaux: Williams, Edelman and Insoll in London yesterday.

Affairs and Sir Alan Neale, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The trade, which doesn't often get this near to top brass, was delighted that Edelman had managed to lay on these big shots, together with a mixed bag of politicians and trade unionists, ranging from Regional Maundling to Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers.

Thomson delighted the gathering and further by promising to report their gripes to Lardinois, the Commissioner for Agriculture, while Sir Alan promised to look into undue customs delays in British ports.

This, said Dick Insoll, director of the Wine and Spirit Association of Great Britain, was the release of the Lockhead papers and their allegation that Adnan Khashoggi and his Triad

strictly speaking, it wasn't the right one. Since the trade employs 2.5 million people in Europe, it's about time they met somebody.

The Franco-British Council, a think-tank set up after the 1972 royal state visit to France, has up until now funded these get-togethers with government money. On this occasion, however, Stanley Williams, managing director of Bass Charrington Vintners, stepped in with an offer.

Saudi hearing

Officials of Rolls-Royce will be following with some interest the proceedings of the United States Senate subcommittee on international corporations since the release of the Lockhead papers and their allegation that Adnan Khashoggi and his Triad

consulting group acted as a conduit for "under the table" compensation to Saudi Arabian civil servants. Khashoggi yesterday denied that he had done so.

Last year Lockheed sold five TriStar airplanes to Saudi Arabia, a deal that netted Rolls-Royce £7.5m, since the aircraft are powered by the British company's RB-211 engines. Rolls-Royce was prompted by his diary yesterday that it retains Khashoggi on its own account as a commercial adviser.

His job, it was said, is to advise the company on potential new customers and on the customer's ability to pay. Spare engines and components were sometimes sold direct to the customer independently of the aircraft manufacturer, in which case Khashoggi might be paid commission.

British Aircraft Corporation has an even bigger direct stake in Saudi Arabia, although a spokesman was unable to confirm or deny that Khashoggi's Triad Corporation was on its books. "I can't find any connection between this firm and ourselves", a BAC man said. BAC is in the middle of a five-year contract to train and provide support services for the Saudi Arabian air force.

No one can accuse the European Commission's financial institutions of lack of foresight. Besides providing many millions of pounds towards building that troubled new blast furnace at Llanwern, they have also quietly spent £50,000 to finance a study of the use of redundant blast furnaces for recycling of urban refuse.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Shares forge ahead but news from steel strike talks causes late selling

The equity market was in good spirits again yesterday, although gains in the leading shares came back sharply in late dealing on reports of a setback in the steel negotiations. Earlier, most sectors advanced steadily, in spite of the uncertainty in the gilt-edged market and the setback in the pound against the US dollar.

Some good buying orders came in for industrial shares. Private clients wanted stock, and the unit trusts showed interest. But, as so often in recent weeks, shortage of stock in the market played a significant role in pushing prices ahead.

Toy shares are in fashion and those in Metrov rose 1p to a new peak of 29p. But the yield is still nearly 9 per cent and good interest in profits are due soon. Lesney at 20p are also at a high but the yield is only 4.2 per cent.

The late news from the steel strike talks brought a fair amount of nervous selling. The FT index, having touched 329 at best, slipped back to 326 at the close, a net 4.2 up.

Settlement Day considerations

held the market back at first. But such technicalities were soon forgotten when share prices started to move ahead.

After a firm start, gilt-edged prices began to sag in the face of depressing news and rumour. Initially, the market enjoyed a follow through from the previous day's firmer trading. Short-dated stocks displayed gains of 3-16 point at one stage while long-dated stocks rose an 1 point.

However, rumours of a total breakdown in the steel talks, together with a fall in sterling against the dollar and the clearly displayed intention of the US monetary authorities to tighten up on domestic money supply growth, reversed the initial trend in London bonds.

"Longs" eventually closed with a net 1 point loss—or 1 point down from the day's best—and "shorts" ended either without net change or, in places, a 1-16 point down on the day.

The progress of equities continued to mystify even the market professionals. After a firm opening had proved a little too strong for the buyers, shares slackened. But within half an hour buyers were appearing on most industrial sectors—and even on the consumer pitches,

where confirmation of falling retail sales were simply brushed aside.

Turnover remained thinish—recorded bargains totalled 5,101—but the quality of the buying seemed good. Some sources claimed that the private client was pushing the market ahead, but others were sure that the institutions, particularly the unit trusts, were

unwilling to see prices move too far ahead of them.

The late setback was concentrated upon the market leaders, whose shares came back fairly sharply. Thus, ICI, having forged up to 278p at best, dipped quickly to 274p, to close at 275p, a net rise of 4p on the day. Once again, ICI topped the list of active stock. Unilever, also relatively busy, closed a net

8p up at 385p. Courtaulds were choiced back to 132p, and Fisons (380p) and Glaxo Holdings (383p) closed unchanged after shedding early gains of a few pence each.

Shares in BICC did well at first, climbing to 107p ahead of the interim statement. But the profit and sales figures were a disappointment to the stock market, and the shares ended unchanged in 104p. Also on the engineering pitch, GKN (217p) and Vickers (104p) attracted buyers ahead of trading statement due this week.

Shares in Nairn & Williamson eased to 94p but quickly rallied to 98p on bid terms from Low & Bonar. With Low at 153p, this puts Nairn in a line with the norm.

Rank Organisation had a nervous day as the City eagerly awaited a decision on the boardroom round at 135p (after 140p). The "A" shares were finally up off 185p (185p) responded with a 5p rise to the news of plans to expand the United States side.

Ladbroke Group jumped to 120p when the warrant holders failed to move against the rights issue proposal at the annual general meeting. Ladbroke warrants saw business yesterday. Elsewhere on the consumer side,

Tate & Lyle touched 238p before easing to 233p, on good institutional buying. W. H. Smith soared to 375p, with in-

vestors believing that the whole-sale newspaper interests will survive the worst of the retail slump.

Speculators returned to Funness Withy, lifting the shares to 229p after 222p, on hopes that Euro Canadian Hides will, despite a fall, make an all-out bid one day.

Selective buying of building and construction shares favoured Taylor Woodrow (289p), RMC (75p) and Tunnel (143p).

Equity turnover on Monday was worth £38.8m (10,673 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Unilever, Shell, Ladbroke warrants, Barclays, Consolidated Goldfields, Thorn ord, Marks & Spencer, Boots and Allied Breweries.

Both H Samuel and Jas Walker trading well

In spite of the recession, sales of jewelry, watches, gold and silverware are still good. Both H. Samuel and James Walker, Goldsmith & Silversmiths, have enjoyed record trading, although both are coping with margin restraint and higher VAT.

Profits of H. Samuel for the six months to July 31 are up 27 per cent to £2.2m and both gross and net margins were well within reference levels—well below the £875,000 provision brought forward from last year has been taken into credit. The board hopes that the full year

will again provide satisfactory figures. The shares gained 1p to 107p.

James Walker has pushed its profits for the year to April 30 up from £2.28m to a record £2.76m, as turnover rose from £9.6m to £13.3m. First-half growth was 31 per cent to £1.04m, but the crucial second-half—which includes Christmas—was hit by margin controls. Growth for this period slowed to 14 per cent with profits reaching £1.7m. The dividend goes up from 2.40p to 2.66p. Earnings a share are 8.25p, against 6.54p.

Gallenkamp quickens pace in second half

The shares of A. Gallenkamp, scientific instrument maker, rose 10p to 113p on news that the group had turned in record pre-tax profits up from £1.53m to £2.49m in the year to June 30. This 60 per cent increase was better than the board indicated.

When they announced interim results in March, the directors said they doubted whether the second half would match the first half pre-tax profit rise of 41 per cent. They explained that costs continued to rise, as

the home market dwindled, and price competition stiffened overseas. In fact exports contributed over 64 per cent of total sales and pre-tax profits during the period added another £1.46m. Turnover in the full year rose from £15.4m to £19.9m, with the second half contributing £10.6m.

The board notes that the new principal marketing divisions—Gallenkamp Industry and Research, and Griffin Education—each contributed equal amounts to turnover and profit.

In 1974-75, Board confident of further progress. Interim payment raised from 1.85p gross to 2.09p.

WHEATSEAF DISTRIBUTION
Wheatseaf Distribution has acquired 75 per cent of the capital of Wheatseaf Pious SA for about £25,000 in cash. Pious is a company operating a wholesale cash-and-carry and delivered-trade in food and grocery products, and a wine and bottling plant.

MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS
Midland Bank is increasing its commitment to unit trust management. It is changing the name of Dryden Unit Trust Managers to Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers. The Midland Dryden Trust will be selling units through the bank's branches.

MAINE ENGINEERING
Conditional agreement reached for purchase of P. Bassall, a Sheffield-based house builder, for £255,000 cash.

STONE-PLATT-SRAGG
Offer by Stone-Platt for Ernest Sragg & Sons has been accepted by £1.1 per cent of equity.

Briefly

NEW WITWATERSRAND

Earnings a share performance by New Witwatersrand Gold Exploration will probably drop during the current year because of the probable absence of major new discoveries, the chairman, Mr A. M. D. Gnodde, says in the annual report. However, dividends should be maintained at 20 cents a share, he adds.

TDC GROUP

On turnover up from £9.37m to £12.54m, pre-tax profits rose from £265,000 to £405,000 in half-year to April 30. Board believes company will continue to do better than average. Interim payment raised from 2.75p gross to 3.04p.

CROYDEX

For half-year to June 30, turnover rose from £1.98m to £2.25m and pre-tax profits from £240,000

INTERIM STATEMENT



FRICITION MATERIALS - INDUSTRIAL TEXTILES - GLASS FIBRE PRODUCTS

Interim Report 1975

Results for Six Months

Turnover for the half year ended 30th June 1975 was 23% higher than that for the same period of 1974, and Group profit before tax was increased by 12%. As compared with the second half of last year, however, turnover rose by only 8% but profit before tax showed an increase of 63%. This dramatic rise in profit in the first half of 1975 as compared with the immediately preceding six months period strongly confirms the view expressed in the last Chairman's Statement that the Group has adapted itself well to present conditions. Our liquidity position has also improved, with reduced borrowings—the increased interest charge is due to higher rates.

The world-wide recession in the automotive industry still continues and turnover in this field remains below our capacity. Profitability, however, has been restored to a level similar to that attained in the early part of 1974. At the same time, progress has continued on the industrial side, which has again contributed more than half the total profit. Overseas operations account for 64% of overall profits.

Interim Dividend

Annual dividend increases are at present subject to a statutory limitation of 10%. Accordingly, an interim dividend of 0.86625p, net per share, (0.7875p, net per share last year) has been declared in respect of the year ending 31st December 1975, payable on 8th January 1976 to all ordinary shareholders registered on 2nd December 1975.

Prospects

Although economic conditions remain difficult, we see no reason to expect any deterioration in our own overall position in the immediate future. A continuing strike affecting most of the asbestos mines in the Thetford area of Quebec constitutes some concern, but in the present supply situation it should not have any significant effect on the operation of the Group during the remainder of 1975. We believe that profits in the second half of the year will not be materially different from those of the first half.

Michael Pearson, Chairman

September, 1975

Comparative Half-Yearly Results

	First Half 1975	First Half 1974	Second Half 1974
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Sales	38,176	31,137	35,747
UK	17,808	13,797	17,459
Overseas	20,368	17,340	18,288
Exports from U.K.	5,035	3,747	4,362
Net Balance from Trading	4,833	4,020	3,614
Less:			
Depreciation	1,376	1,191	1,310
Bank Loan and Interest	782	669	707
Debit Interest	100	100	100
Operating Profit	2,695	2,220	1,497
Share of Profit of Associated Company	248	192	186
Profit before Tax	2,943	2,412	1,683
U.K.	877	428	617
Overseas	1,736	1,394	1,046
Less Taxation			
U.K.	507	428	515
Overseas	876	797	446
	1,383	1,225	961
Net Profit after Tax	1,560	1,187	722
Minority Interests	83	56	35
Profit Attributable to BBA Group Ltd.	1,247	1,089	674
Dividend			
Rate	0.86625p	0.7875p	1.6383p
net			
Cost	£282,275	£265,703	£552,070
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.69p	3.25p	1.39p

Stone-Platt Industries

Leading manufacturers of textile machinery, marine engineering products, pumps for the power, petrochemical and water industries, and electrical products.

Interim report

	First Half 1975	First Half 1974*	Year 1974
	£m.	£m.	£m.
Net sales	66.8	48.8	111.4
Profit before interest and taxation	5.2	3.6	9.8
Profit before taxation	4.1	2.8	8.0
Ordinary stockholders' earnings	2.4	1.6	5.2
Earnings per share	7.4p	4.9p	16.1p

*Both half years are directly comparable, as first half 1974 figures have been adjusted for the change in U.S.A. stock valuation basis which was explained in the 1974 Annual Report.

Compared with first half 1974 when UK operations were adversely affected by the three day week:

- Sales and pre-tax profit rose 37% and 49% respectively.
- Earnings per share increased by 51%.
- Exports from UK advanced by 38% to £25.7M.
- Unexecuted order book at 30th June was £168M and liquidity remained satisfactory.
- 79% of the Company's Sales were to customers outside the UK.

In the absence of unforeseen circumstances, pre-tax profit for the full year 1975 is expected to show significant improvement over 1974.

25 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1HH

Maybrook Properties Limited

199 Piccadilly, London W1V 0JJ

Year to 25th March	1973	1974	1975
Gross Revenue	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Profit attributable to shareholders	796	824	708
Net Assets	251	257	376*
	4,548	4,862	4,436
Dividend per share	2.205p	2.216p	2.216p
Net Assets per share	110p	118p	108p

*Including transfer from Capital Reserve of a realisation surplus of £12,000.

Projects completed during the year were in the U.K. £2.9m, and Belgium £3.73m. One project is under construction in Manchester costing £2.5m, and one in Brussels, Belgium £3.07m.

High interest charges on development sites, lower dealing profits and the writing down of the values of certain sites have affected the year's results. Lettings and sales here and in Belgium now being negotiated should lead to better results in the current year.

The above points are from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Luke E. Manoussos, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.S.

Wadham Stringer going strong

With pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 recovering from £903,000 to a record £1,055m, Wadham Stringer, the car to computer bureau group, is confident of a successful year.

Turnover expanded from £28.4m to £37m, but dividend is 0.8p gross again.

Mr F. C. Stringer, the chairman, says that the result is satisfactory in view of the general economic conditions. All divisions were busy and better used car sales offset a fall in new vehicle sales of around 12 per cent.

The marine business has large export orders, while the ambulance factory is taking on extra staff to cope with an outstanding order book of a record £125m.

Thomas Jourdan slips into the red
No interim dividend is declared as investment holding group, Thomas Jourdan. A pre-tax profit of £145,000 turned into a loss of £59,000 in the first half year to June 30. Chairman, Mr Archie McNair, blames a lack of orders in the group's West Midlands subsidiaries.

The results show that subsidiaries lost £81,000 against a profit of £123,000. Turnover rose from £1.2m to £1.4m. The chairman adds that the results for the second half should improve.

Barton steady

After a record first half year to June 30 (pre-tax profits climbed to £1.44m from £1.38m), engineer and tubing manufacturer Barton & Sons do not foresee the total for the year equalling last year's peak £3.01m. However, Mr Charles Roper, chairman, repeats his forecast of May that 1975 results would be "satisfactory". Turnover in the first half rose to £15.51m from £12.65m. Interim dividend is maintained at the net level but rises to 1.54p from 1.49p gross.

James Wilke plummets

A slump is reported by James Wilke, the maker of business forms and equipment. Pre-tax profits fell from £202,000 to £89,000 in the first half year to June 30. Turnover rose from £3m to £3.4m, extraordinary items accounted for £28,000 (nil the year before), and a loss was reported in an associate company of £5,000 against a profit of £9,000 the previous year. But the interim dividend stays at 1.38p.

Barclays form trust

Aimed at the international investor, Barclays Unicorn International (Channel Islands), part of the overseas mutual fund arm of Barclays, has launched a new unit medium, Unicorntrust. The trust is domiciled in United States dollars and the shares are in

More share prices

The following have been added to The London and Regional Share Price List and are now published daily in Business News:

Commercial and Industrial: Farnham B. & Sons.
Financial Trusts: Alroyd & Smithers.

bearer form. Barclays said it is our first trust to be named to a currency other than sterling. The aim is to produce long-term growth through a worldwide portfolio of stocks. Estimated gross commencing yield is 5 per cent.

Mat Clark dives: outlook better
In February, Matthew Clark, the shipper of wines and spirits and maker of British wine, forecast that pre-tax profits for the year to April 30 would fall 46 per cent to £500,000. The group has in fact done worse than this. Pre-tax profits slumped by 55 per cent to £759,000, on turnover down from £21m to £17m. A final payment of 4.5p against 4.06p brings the year's total to 6.51p compared with 6.91p. But the company says that sales and profitability of all major products have improved in the current year.

British Mohair slide
In spite of export level being maintained at 40 per cent of turnover, a fall in home demand for the products of British Mohair Spinners has dragged pre-tax profits down from £275,000 to £172,000 in the half year to June 30. Turnover is £6.22m against £6.88m. Mr T. W. Hibbet, chairman, says that the results reflect tough times in the textile industry. The dividend drops from 1.75p to 1.0p.

Biddle in upturn
On turnover up from £3.5m to £4.6m, Biddle Holdings, a manufacturer of heating and air conditioning equipment and lifts, has boosted pre-tax profits from £221,000 to £368,000 in the first half-year to June 30. But chairman Mr F. D. Biddle said profits will be lower in the second half.

J. B. Eastwood

The auditors of J. B. Eastwood note that no depreciation is provided in the latest accounts on freehold and leasehold properties, and on some equipment. The aggregate book value of buildings and equipment, including poultry houses, amounted to £19m at March 31.

Chas Clifford setback
A sharp fall in pre-tax profit from £263,000 to £82,000 in the first half year to June 30 is reported by Charles Clifford Industries. Turnover declined from £4.5m to £4.2m and the directors say that second half results will be comparable.

With the first half profits at a record £1.44m, the company has started exceptional items which include a surplus on a property sale, the cost of transfer of production, a payment to Mr F. D. Rowe on his

resignation as an executive director and the cost of the offer (subsequently withdrawn) for Evered & Co. Mr J. R. Allan, chairman of Metal Products (Willeshall)—now in receivership—has resigned from the Clifford board. The effect of Metal Products' difficulties on the company is reflected in the accounts.

Gen Accident offer
In a recommended deal, General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, Corporation is offering about 42.5p a share for Brighton, Worthing & District Property & Investment Corp. The offer values this public but unlisted company at about £5.3m. Schroders offer a cash alternative.

GRAND METROPOLITAN HOTELS
Grand Metropolitan Hotels and Albert Abela have reached agreement for the joint management of hotel development to be built in the Middle East. Projects involved are at Beirut, Teheran, Amman, Cairo, Damascus and other Middle Eastern cities.

SILVERMINES
Silvermines' pre-tax profits fell by 14 per cent to £512,727 in the six months to end June. This was better than the performance of Mogul of Ireland, in which the company has 25 per cent, indicated. Aran-SE, in which it has a 12.5 per cent holding, expects to start drilling for oil and gas in the Irish Sea next summer.

DECCA LTD
Payments on 17 1/2 per cent pref. deb. now at a coupon rate of 16.25 per cent and on the 11 1/2 per cent pref. at 10 1/4 per cent per annum. This follows variations of pre-tax profits by board on July 1, after taking into consideration advice of co's solicitor.

WITBANK-WEIGEDACHT
Listing of shares of Witbank Colliery and Weigedacht Exploration, both in Barlow Rand stable, have been cancelled on London Stock Exchange. The London office has also been closed because of paucity of shares on register.

Business appointments
Mr M. G. Wilcox, a director and chairman of the Midland Bank, has been elected chairman of the North West Economic Planning Council. He succeeds Sir William Heather. Dr David Harper has been made deputy chairman.

John C. Greaves has been named group financial controller for Stoddard & Mills. Mr Seamus McGrath has joined the board of Leslie & Godwin (Ireland).

Mr Peter Borge is to be director general of The Soap and Detergent Industry Association. He succeeds Mr G. V. Richardson, who is to retire.

Mr P. Seaborn and Mr D. J. N. Sherlock have been appointed directors of Hutchison & Craft (London).

A. A. C. Kennedy has been appointed chairman of Myddleton Hotels following the death of Mr F. N. Hornsby.

Desmond Nicholson has ceased to be a director of James Maistead (Holdings).

Mr Robert Holder has been appointed deputy chairman of Redgrave-Cumby (Holdings).

Mr H. Marston Riley has been made a director of Bain Dawes (Midlands), the Birmingham company of the Bain Dawes group of international insurance brokers.

Mr Gordon Gibby has joined the board of Seward Baker and Mr Tony Sordic becomes a director of Seward Baker Advertising.

Sir Patrick Dore has been elected chairman of Cambridge Perovskite Royalties in succession to the late Lord Geddes.

RATNERS Jewellers of Repute

Another Record Year

Extracts from the Chairman's statement—year ended 6th April 1975

- ★ Pre-tax trading profit £1,080,530 (£900,064) - fifth consecutive record year
- ★ Sales £6,639,735 (£4,606,482)
- ★ Retail sales well ahead in the current year
- ★ Twelve new branches opened - further ten acquired
- ★ Earnings per 10p share: 23.2p (19.6p)
- ★ One for one bonus issue

85 branches throughout the UK

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER—Futures were 23.80 down from 24.00. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

SILVER—Futures were 15.00 down from 15.10. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

WHEAT—Futures were 1.00 down from 1.10. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Issues & Loans

Teesside works gets loan of \$275m

Norpipe Petroleum UK—owned jointly by Statoil and Phillips Norway Group—and Norske Pipeline—wholly owned by Phillips Norway—have signed two Eurodollar loan agreements for \$275m with a group of international banks.

The proceeds of the eight-year loan will be used to complete the Teesside storage and processing facilities which will serve the Ekofisk transportation system.

The financing group was headed by Citicorp International Bank and Soc General de Banque.

Eire's \$250m loan

Allied Irish Investment Bank, Manufacturers Hanover, and S. G. Warburg have arranged and completed a US \$250m medium term loan to Ireland, for financing the country's capital expenditure. It is Ireland's largest single borrowing from the international banking market. The trio arranged the credit in conjunction with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Chemical Bank, Citicorp International Bank, Commerbank, Grindlays Bank, Midland Bank, Toronto-Dominion Bank and Wells Fargo.

£1.5m for Kensington

Among this week's local authority borrowers of one-year bonds at the slightly higher rate of 11 per cent is Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which is raising £1.5m at par. Birmingham District Council is issuing £3m and Newcastle-on-Tyne and Sunderland £1m each.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	10%
C. Hoare & Co.	10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster	10%
Shenley Trust	11 1/2%
20th Century Bank	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	10%

M. J. E. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01-638 8551

1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
35	35	35	35
95	95	95	95
126	126	126	126
61	61	61	61
65	65	65	65

SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

The 37th Annual General Meeting of Sobranie (Holdings) Limited was held on September 16th in London. The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Joint Managing Director, Mr. Charles C. Redstone:

We have for some years past had remarkable governments, and it is surprising that, in the past year, we have done at all, and indeed, have not been completely done for. We have a considerable amount of staying power, and not even the worst that the Government can do has, so far, brought us to our knees. The unhappy financial result (profit £110,249 against £207,111) is due, in no small measure, to the massive increase in duty, leading to vast increases in working capital required, and, consequently, in bank interest, as well as the accumulated effects of inflation on our Laundry Division.

In the U.S., our associate company has obtained the agency for the sale of smoking tobaccos manufactured by the Imperial Group. This is a useful addition and should prove profitable. We have also acquired the Brilon Pipe Company of Sweden. A pipe already well established in several world markets. We are proceeding to develop this product through our own overseas network of agents. We have contracted, since our year end, to purchase a specialist cigarette manufacturer in Western Germany, which we regard as having potential. Our entry last year into herbal smoking products has so far proved advantageous, with sales and profits growing quite steadily in the U.K. and more so overseas.

Tobacco Division. The Tobacco Division, having just recovered from last year's Excise onslaught, has been pilloried again in this year's Budget, and we are fortunate indeed that so much of our business is abroad that we are, to some extent, cushioned from the activities of our all-wise Government. I have said before, and say again, that I believe that smoking in moderation soothes the nerves, quiets many dangerous sensations and restores to a civilized composure the raging cauldron that is, alas, so often the human psyche.

Laundry Division. The first phase of the Laundry Division's reorganisation has now taken place, with very satisfactory results, and we have reason to hope that the second phase, which is now progressing, when completed will further substantially improve the performance.

Outlook. In these times, it would be foolhardy to forecast the divisions for the current year, but it has started well in all quarters, and, subject to no further deterioration in the situation, at home or abroad, and subject to no further government interventions, we would be mildly optimistic for a rather better result.

COFFEE—Robusta futures were 25.00 down from 25.10. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

WHEAT—Futures were 1.00 down from 1.10. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

SILVER—Futures were 15.00 down from 15.10. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Country	Par	Offer
UK	100	100
France	100	100
Germany	100	100
Italy	100	100
Spain	100	100
Belgium	100	100
Netherlands	100	100
Sweden	100	100
Denmark	100	100
Finland	100	100
Portugal	100	100
Greece	100	100
Turkey	100	100
Japan	100	100
South Korea	100	100
India	100	100
China	100	100
USSR	100	100
Other	100	100

Foreign Exchange

The dollar advanced sharply in European currency trading yesterday.

Sterling dropped to 2.0875 against the dollar at one stage, an all-time low for the pound in terms of the United States currency, but it recovered partially to close at \$2.0810, with a net fall of 150 points.

The "effective rate" worsened from 27.4 to 27.5 per cent.

Gold fell \$1.25 an ounce to \$147.12.

Discount market

Discount houses enjoyed an easy session yesterday. The Bank of England eventually intervened in the market to supply liquidity on a large scale, selling Treasury bills to the houses and banks in return for cash. The market remained quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Spot Position of Sterling

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Forward Levels

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Gold

Gold prices were 1.25 down from 148.37. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Bank Base Rates

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

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Wall Street

New York, Sept 16.—On the New York Stock Exchange today selected issues were higher in response to bullish corporate news. But on balance the market was lower, reversing a moderate upward move in the session. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 3.13 points to 870.66 at noon.

The weakness in the market coincided with a report from a non-partisan Congressional panel that the Federal Reserve Board is moving toward a tight United States monetary policy.

Yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 4.10 points to 870.66. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by 353 to 247. The volume was the lowest of the year, totaling 8,670,000 shares, compared with 12,230,000 on Friday. The previous low of the year was 10,613,350 shares traded on August 15. The Yom Kippur Jewish holiday was partly responsible for the low level of activity.

They said the move was inflationary and a threat to investor confidence.

Analysts said the widespread move by American banks to raise prime rates to 8 per cent from 7 1/2 per cent helped to increase fear of higher interest rates and renewed inflation.

Brokers also cited concern over the planned sale of \$3,000m of Treasury bonds.

NY silver down 3c

New York, Sept 16.—Silver futures were 3c down from 15.00. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Recent Issues

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Bank Base Rates

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SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Markets were quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month. The market was quiet with some buying for the month.



Stock Exchange prices

Very firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 8. Dealings End Sept. 19. § Contango Day, Sept. 22. Settlement Day, Sept. 30.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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BRITISH FUNDS									
Stock	Price	Div	Yld	Stock	Price	Div	Yld	Stock	Price
British 100	100	10	10	British 200	200	20	20	British 300	300
British 400	400	40	40	British 500	500	50	50	British 600	600
British 700	700	70	70	British 800	800	80	80	British 900	900
British 1000	1000	100	100	British 1100	1100	110	110	British 1200	1200
British 1300	1300	130	130	British 1400	1400	140	140	British 1500	1500
British 1600	1600	160	160	British 1700	1700	170	170	British 1800	1800
British 1900	1900	190	190	British 2000	2000	200	200	British 2100	2100
British 2200	2200	220	220	British 2300	2300	230	230	British 2400	2400
British 2500	2500	250	250	British 2600	2600	260	260	British 2700	2700
British 2800	2800	280	280	British 2900	2900	290	290	British 3000	3000
British 3100	3100	310	310	British 3200	3200	320	320	British 3300	3300
British 3400	3400	340	340	British 3500	3500	350	350	British 3600	3600
British 3700	3700	370	370	British 3800	3800	380	380	British 3900	3900
British 4000	4000	400	400	British 4100	4100	410	410	British 4200	4200
British 4300	4300	430	430	British 4400	4400	440	440	British 4500	4500
British 4600	4600	460	460	British 4700	4700	470	470	British 4800	4800
British 4900	4900	490	490	British 5000	5000	500	500	British 5100	5100
British 5200	5200	520	520	British 5300	5300	530	530	British 5400	5400
British 5500	5500	550	550	British 5600	5600	560	560	British 5700	5700
British 5800	5800	580	580	British 5900	5900	590	590	British 6000	6000
British 6100	6100	610	610	British 6200	6200	620	620	British 6300	6300
British 6400	6400	640	640	British 6500	6500	650	650	British 6600	6600
British 6700	6700	670	670	British 6800	6800	680	680	British 6900	6900
British 7000	7000	700	700	British 7100	7100	710	710	British 7200	7200
British 7300	7300	730	730	British 7400	7400	740	740	British 7500	7500
British 7600	7600	760	760	British 7700	7700	770	770	British 7800	7800
British 7900	7900	790	790	British 8000	8000	800	800	British 8100	8100
British 8200	8200	820	820	British 8300	8300	830	830	British 8400	8400
British 8500	8500	850	850	British 8600	8600	860	860	British 8700	8700
British 8800	8800	880	880	British 8900	8900	890	890	British 9000	9000
British 9100	9100	910	910	British 9200	9200	920	920	British 9300	9300
British 9400	9400	940	940	British 9500	9500	950	950	British 9600	9600
British 9700	9700	970	970	British 9800	9800	980	980	British 9900	9900
British 10000	10000	1000	1000	British 10100	10100	1010	1010	British 10200	10200
British 10300	10300	1030	1030	British 10400	10400	1040	1040	British 10500	10500
British 10600	10600	1060	1060	British 10700	10700	1070	1070	British 10800	10800
British 10900	10900	1090	1090	British 11000	11000	1100	1100	British 11100	11100
British 11200	11200	1120	1120	British 11300	11300	1130	1130	British 11400	11400
British 11500	11500	1150	1150	British 11600	11600	1160	1160	British 11700	11700
British 11800	11800	1180	1180	British 11900	11900	1190	1190	British 12000	12000
British 12100	12100	1210	1210	British 12200	12200	1220	1220	British 12300	12300
British 12400	12400	1240	1240	British 12500	12500	1250	1250	British 12600	12600
British 12700	12700	1270	1270	British 12800	12800	1280	1280	British 12900	12900
British 13000	13000	1300	1300	British 13100	13100	1310	1310	British 13200	13200
British 13300	13300	1330	1330	British 13400	13400	1340	1340	British 13500	13500
British 13600	13600	1360	1360	British 13700	13700	1370	1370	British 13800	13800
British 13900	13900	1390	1390	British 14000	14000	1400	1400	British 14100	14100
British 14200	14200	1420	1420	British 14300	14300	1430	1430	British 14400	14400
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British 15700	15700	1570	1570	British 15800	15800	1580	1580	British 15900	15900
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British 16300	16300	1630	1630	British 16400	16400	1640	1640	British 16500	16500
British 16600	16600	1660	1660	British 16700	16700	1670	1670	British 16800	16800
British 16900	16900	1690	1690	British 17000	17000	1700	1700	British 17100	17100
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British 19300	19300	1930	1930	British 19400	19400	1940	1940	British 19500	19500
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British 19900	19900	1990	1990	British 20000	20000	2000	2000	British 20100	20100
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British 33700	33700	3370	3370	British 33800	33800	3380	3380	British 33900	33900
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Heating. Planning permission for garage
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With views over open countryside close
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Dunmow, Tel. 0245 58201. Ref. 2EE1448
Strutt & Parker, Chelmsford Office,
Coval Hill. Tel. 0245 58201. Ref. 2EE1448

SUFFOLK—PARHAM

Woodbridge 8 miles.
A COUNTRY HOUSE OF LATE
16TH CENTURY ORIGIN
Restored to a very high standard.
Galleried hall, 3 Reception Rooms,
Sewing Room, 3 Bedrooms/Bathroom
suites, Nursery, Single Bedroom. Also
second floor study & Library. Pleasant
garden.
About 6½ Acres including a paddock.
Offers around £45,000 are invited.
Joint Agents: Wright & Ward,
23 Princess Street, Ipswich, Tel. 51218
and Strutt & Parker, Ipswich Office,
11 Museum Street, Tel. 0473 214841.
(Ref. 5AA712)

ESSEX/SUFFOLK BORDER

Sudbury 11 miles.
A FINE REGENCY COUNTRY HOUSE
with planning permission for a change
of use to an old persons residence
situated in mature parklike grounds
Entrance Hall, 4 Reception Rooms,
Kitchen, 7 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms,
2 Dressing Rooms, Oil Central Heating.
Stable block and outbuildings.
Delightful garden and grounds.
About 4½ Acres. £55,000
Joint Agents: H. J. Turner & Son,
Sudbury, Tel. 72833 & Strutt & Parker,
Chelmsford Office, Coval Hill. Tel.
0245 58201. (Ref. 2AE1126)

THE TWINEHAM GRANGE ESTATE—MID SUSSEX

Haywards Heath 6 miles. Henfield 5 miles. Excellent placed for Road and Rail
access to London.
AN EXCELLENT RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE
An Impressive Spacious Country House with superb views to the South Downs
Reception Hall, 4 Reception Rooms, 7 Principal Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 4 Secondary
Bedrooms, Domestic Quarters, Oil Central Heating, Squash Court, Garage Block with
3rd. Attractive garden.
A Productive Dairy and Corn Farm: Good ranges of farmbuildings in 3 blocks.
Farmhouse: Bungalow; 2 Lodges; Terrace of 4 Cottages.
Well Cultivated Land, Useful Blocks of Woodland and Lake.
ABOUT 422 ACRES WITH VACANT POSSESSION.
(Subject to Service Occupancy of some cottages)
For Sale As a Whole or in Lots.
Lewes Office, 201 High Street, Tel. 07916 5411 or London Office. (Ref. 5BC982)

ESSEX

Orsett 1 mile. Dartford Tunnel 8½ miles. Fenchurch Street 33 minutes.
A HANDSOME GEORGIAN HOUSE SUPERBLY EQUIPPED AND FITTED.



Completely surrounded by its own parkland and within easy reach of London.
Hall, Reception Rooms, Study, 6 Principal Bedrooms, 4 Secondary Bedrooms, 4
Bathrooms (one en suite), Nursery, Gymnasium, Sauna, Self-contained Flat, Oil
Central Heating. Hard tennis court. Heated swimming pool. Double garage.
Aircraft hanger and airstrip. Mature gardens, parkland, pasture and woodlands.
ABOUT 98 ACRES (For Sale As a Whole or House and 11½ acres).
London Office, Tel. 01-629 7282 or Chelmsford Office, Tel. 0245 58201. (Ref. 1AL4524)

RUTLAND

ATtractive EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE
on edge of picturesque village
Hall, 3 Reception Rooms, 4 Main Bedrooms, Bathroom, 2 Secondary Bedrooms.
Electric Storage Heaters, Garaging and Stables. Partly walled garden.
About 4½ Acres.
Offers around £30,000.
Grantham Office, Spitgate House, London Road, Tel. 0478-5886.

KENT—HUNTON

Marden Station 2½ miles. London 63
minutes. Maidstone 8 miles.
AN ELIZABETHAN FARMHOUSE
Recently completely restored and in a
fine rural situation.
2 Reception Rooms, Study, 4 Bedrooms,
Dressing Room, Bathroom, Utility Room.
Oil Central Heating. Detached Garage
and range of buildings with planning
permission for conversion to a secondary
dwelling. About 1½ of an acre.
Offers in the region of £33,000.
London Office, Tel. 01-629 7282.

SUSSEX—LOWER BEEDING

Horsham 4½ miles. Victoria 60 minutes.
A WELL MODERNISED VICTORIAN
HOUSE
In fine wooded grounds with views to
the South Downs
Hall, 3 Reception Rooms, 6 Bedrooms,
3 Bathrooms, Oil Central Heating.
Self-contained ground floor flat, Lodge,
Garage, Stabling, Gardens, Paddock,
and Woodland.
About 58 Acres. £87,500
London Office, Tel. 01-629 7282 or
Lewes Office, 201 High Street, Tel. 5411.
(Ref. 1AN4845)

GLOUCESTER

On the edge of the City.
18 HOLE GOLF COURSE and adjoining
LEISURE CENTRE
AUCTION—30 OCTOBER 1975
As a whole or in 5 lots
With Realistic Reserve Prices.
Lot 1: Restaurant, Steak Bar, 2 Bars,
Conference Suite, 4 Squash Courts,
Golf Driving Range.
Lot 2: 18 hole Golf Course.
Lot 3: Ski Slope with Ski Lift.
Lot 4: Site for 9 hole Par 3 golf course.
Lot 5: Superb Building Site for 1 house
(subject to planning consent).
Full particulars from Joint Auctioneers:
J. Pearce Pope & Sons, 4/6 Russell
Street, Gloucester, Tel. 21274.
Strutt & Parker, Lewes Management
Division, 41 Milford Street, Salisbury,
Tel. Salisbury 28741.

SUSSEX/SURREY BORDER

Horsham 8½ miles. Victoria 55 minutes.
Dorking 10½ miles.
AN ATTRACTIVE WELL PLANNED
COUNTRY HOUSE
In a fine elevated position with superb
views over the Weald
3/4 Reception Rooms, 7 Bedrooms,
3 Bathrooms, Self contained flat,
2 Bedrooms, Lodge, Garage, Stabling,
Heated Swimming Pool, Delightful
grounds, paddocks and woodland.
About 26 Acres.
Lewes Office, 201 High Street.
Tel. 07916 5411. (Ref. 5BC904)

EAST KENT

Canterbury 9 miles. Sandwich 5 miles.
A FINE PERIOD FARMHOUSE
In an outstanding rural position
2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility
Room, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms.
Ground Floor flat. Cellars. Garden
and paddock.
About 2 Acres. £38,500.
(Up to 95 acres, a pair of cottages and
extensive farmbuildings also available).
Joint Sole Agents: G. W. Finn & Sons,
18 Castle Market, Sandwich. Tel. 2147.
and Strutt & Parker, Canterbury Office,
8 Rose Lane. Tel. 51123. (Ref. 8CD300)

HANTS—GRATELEY

Andover 9 miles. Salisbury 15 miles.
AN ATTRACTIVE MAINLY 17TH
CENTURY VILLAGE HOUSE
Hall, 3 Reception Rooms, 5 Bedrooms,
2 Bathrooms, Oil Central Heating,
Studio, Garaging and Outbuildings.
Delightful garden.
About 1 Acre. £42,000.
Salisbury Office, 41 Milford Street.
Tel. 0722 28741. (Ref. 7AB1375)

LONDON OFFICE 13 Hill Street, Berkeley Square, W1X 8DL Tel: 01-629 7282

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

BROWN & MERRY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Attractive 17th century house in a fine garden, 10 miles from London, 10 miles from the M1, 10 miles from the M4, 10 miles from the M5, 10 miles from the M6, 10 miles from the M7, 10 miles from the M8, 10 miles from the M9, 10 miles from the M10, 10 miles from the M11, 10 miles from the M12, 10 miles from the M13, 10 miles from the M14, 10 miles from the M15, 10 miles from the M16, 10 miles from the M17, 10 miles from the M18, 10 miles from the M19, 10 miles from the M20, 10 miles from the M21, 10 miles from the M22, 10 miles from the M23, 10 miles from the M24, 10 miles from the M25, 10 miles from the M26, 10 miles from the M27, 10 miles from the M28, 10 miles from the M29, 10 miles from the M30, 10 miles from the M31, 10 miles from the M32, 10 miles from the M33, 10 miles from the M34, 10 miles from the M35, 10 miles from the M36, 10 miles from the M37, 10 miles from the M38, 10 miles from the M39, 10 miles from the M40, 10 miles from the M41, 10 miles from the M42, 10 miles from the 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THE LONDON HOSPITAL
(Whitechapel)

Secretary

COMMITTEES LIAISON
Salary £2,493 to £3,003 (Inclusive)

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The person appointed will be the secretarial focus for this essential service and will report directly to one senior hospital administrator. She will co-ordinate the activities of a number of committees and work closely with senior administrative staff who have a direct responsibility for attending meetings and recording decisions. Services of a copy typist available.

36-hour, 5-day week, 17 days' annual leave plus Bank holidays. Electric typewriter, pleasant working environment in a new building. Excellent staff facilities include sports and social club, squash and tennis courts, subsidised staff restaurant, library, etc. Proficiency allowances for secretarial certificates.

Application forms and job description available from Administrator—Personnel Services, The London Hospital (Whitechapel), London E1 1BB. Tel. 01-247 5454, extn. 388.

CLOSING DATE 26th September, 1975.

Tower Hamlets Health District—
part of The City and East London
AHA (7)



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Dynamic, intelligent PA/Secretary for American partner of lively firm of Architects and Town Planners. In return for initiative, enthusiasm and top administrative and secretarial skills (shorthand essential), we offer interest and job involvement in a multi-national firm of predominantly young people.

The surroundings are informal and exceptionally friendly. Hours 9.30 to 5.30, Monday to Friday, 3 weeks holiday, plus extra long statutory Bank Holidays. L.V.s, pension scheme. Salary according to age and experience, but in the region of £2,800 negotiable. Write or telephone to:

Mrs N. Davies,
LLEWELYN-DAVIES WEEKS
FORESTER-WALKER & BOR
4 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6JA.
(Telephone 01-387 0541, ext. 277).

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Someone, somewhere, must be a SECRETARY/ASSISTANT and would like to work for the Marketing Director of a major hotel group.

If that person is you, you've probably been educated to university level, and had advertising agency experience. You'll probably be looking for a salary in the region of £3,000 p.a. and will want free lunches in our coffee shop and more.

If you think you have a pleasant disposition, enjoy working alone and can preferably use your own initiative...

HELLO! I CAN HELP YOU
For an interview please call Coral Ross 722 8866.

TWO CAPABLE SENIOR SECRETARIES

looking for job involvement

ARE SOUGHT BY OUR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OUR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Based in modern, luxurious offices in Knightsbridge, we are the Headquarters of a U.S. Company.

The successful applicants (aged over 25) will enjoy varied duties, with a salary of around £2,750, in return for showing proficiency at senior management level, using their initiative, and possessing good shorthand/typing.

Apply with brief details to:
MRS. BRENDA FRYSON,
CARICOR LIMITED,
157 KINGSWAY, SW7
TELEPHONE: 589 5111.

GEM OF ALL TRADES

We need a Secretary/PA for the Managing Director of our young American computer company in Mayfair.

Ideally you will be 25-30 with good shorthand and typing speed; able to handle on small friendly office, make travel arrangements; enjoy meeting people and even help move office (within Mayfair area) soon. Salary of £2,800 p.a. and free lunch.

In return we offer you:

- ★ £3,000 p.a.
- ★ Non-contributory Health and Life Insurance
- ★ Annual Bonus
- ★ Occasional travel abroad

Phone Mr. Carter 01-499 5418

INTERNATIONAL TOUR OPERATORS

W.I.

Experienced Secretary/PA for European Director.

Hotel or travel experience, ability to work on own initiative on a variety of admin. duties, the ability to handle on small friendly office, make travel arrangements; enjoy meeting people and even help move office (within Mayfair area) soon. Salary of £2,800 p.a. and free lunch.

In return we offer you:

- ★ £3,000 p.a.
- ★ Non-contributory Health and Life Insurance
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